Treatment: Cabenuva for Teens

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The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently extended the indication for Cabenuva (injectable cabotegravir plus rilpivirine) to include adolescents ages 12 and up. Cabenuva was initially approved as a once-monthly regimen, but in February, the FDA authorized every-other-month injections, meaning eligible people can take their antiretroviral therapy just six times per year. The federal agency also recently authorized a new dosing regimen that allows people to start the injections immediately without first taking cabotegravir and rilpivirine pills for a month. Daily HIV prevention pills are highly effective, but studies showed that the long-acting injections work just as well. What's more, some people find long-acting injections more convenient, which could lead to better adherence. This may be especially important for adolescents, as some research has found that they may struggle with adherence. Other advantages include not having to think about HIV treatment every day and not having pill bottles that could reveal one's HIV status.

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