Treatment: New Fusion Inhibitor, Integrase Inhibitor

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The 2012 Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy in San Francisco brought promising news of new, long-acting antiretrovirals to benefit people with drug-resistant strains of HIV. Chinese researchers announced results from early clinical trials of an experimental fusion inhibitor called Albuvirtide (FB006M), which boasts a half-life that's long enough to possibly allow for only once-weekly dosing. This addition to the anti-HIV arsenal would finally provide relief from twice-daily injections required for Fuzeon, which has been the only fusion inhibitor on the market for the past decade but has been vital for multi-drug resistant patients. Meanwhile, ViiV Healthcare presented data at the conference from its experimental integrase inhibitor S/GSK1265744, which has proved potent against HIV strains resistant to Isentress (raltegravir) and elvitegravir. Currently conducting Phase IIb studies, ViiV is investigating the potential for once-a-month injectable dosing.

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