



Treatment: Sunlenca Plus bnAbs

A Phase II clinical trial will start this year to evaluate the potential twice-yearly regimen.

May 15, 2023 By [Liz Highleyman](#)

Sunlenca (lenacapavir), a new injectable HIV capsid inhibitor administered once every six months, has the potential to be paired with two broadly neutralizing antibodies (bnAbs) to construct a twice-yearly regimen. BnAbs are antibodies that bind to parts of the virus that don't change very much as it evolves. Sunlenca is highly effective when combined with daily oral antiretrovirals, but so far it doesn't have an equally durable partner for a complete long-acting regimen. In a small Phase Ib study, 21 people with an undetectable viral load stopped their existing oral antiretrovirals and received injections of Sunlenca plus infusions of two antibodies being developed by Gilead Sciences, dubbed teropavimab and zinlirvimab. Participants were tested in advance to ensure that their HIV was susceptible to both antibodies. Six months later, 90% maintained viral suppression. A Phase II clinical trial will start this year to evaluate whether viral suppression can be maintained when the regimen is administered every six months for a longer duration.

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