



Treatment: Treatment for Teens

Cabenuva, the longest-acting complete antiretroviral regimen, can be a good HIV treatment option for teens.

May 18, 2026 By [Liz Highleyman](#)

Cabenuva (injectable cabotegravir plus rilpivirine)—the longest-acting complete antiretroviral regimen—can be a good HIV treatment option for teens, who often struggle with adherence. The Phase I/II MOCHA trial enrolled 144 adolescents ages 12 to 17 in the United States and four other countries. The median age was 15 years, and most acquired HIV via mother-to-child transmission. At study entry, they were on standard daily oral antiretroviral therapy with an undetectable viral load. They switched to cabotegravir and rilpivirine pills for four weeks before starting injections every other month. Most participants (94%) maintained viral suppression at 96 weeks. Eleven teens had at least one viral blip, but none had confirmed virological failure. A pharmacokinetic analysis showed that cabotegravir and rilpivirine levels were comparable to those seen in adults. Cabenuva was safe and generally well tolerated; the most common side effect was mild to moderate injection site reactions. Almost all study participants said they preferred the long-acting injections over daily pills.

© 2026 Smart + Strong All Rights Reserved.

<http://beta.docker.poz.com/article/treatment-treatment-teens>