

Early success of anti-HIV preventive oral drug regimen is promising, but questions remain

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The first human studies of an oral drug regimen to prevent HIV infection in high-risk individuals yielded a promising near 50% reduction in HIV incidence, but a number of issues require additional research before oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) can be implemented on a large scale, according to an article in *AIDS Patient Care and STDs*, a peer-reviewed journal published by Mary Ann Liebert, Inc.

After the success of a trial of PrEP in a high risk population of men who have sex with men (MSM), expanded studies are set to begin that will enroll more than 20,000 men and women. Although PrEP comprised of a two-drug regimen (the oral antiretroviral agents tenofovir and [emtricitabine](#)) was shown to be safe and effective in early clinical testing, Gavin Myers, MA and Kenneth Mayer, MD, Alpert Medical School of Brown University (Providence, RI) emphasize the need for more research in several key areas: the need for ongoing PrEP clinical monitoring of side effects; the diminished preventive benefits seen in patients who do not adhere to the PrEP regimen and the need for counseling; the attitudes and awareness of physicians who would be prescribing PrEP; and the potential for intermittent PrEP to be as effective as once-daily dosing. They discuss these issues in the article, "Oral Preexposure Anti-HIV Prophylaxis for High-Risk U.S. Populations: Current Considerations in Light of New Findings."

"This is an extraordinary example of translational medicine in the

service of [HIV](#) prevention. But implementation faces major social obstacles. Adherence to a PreP regimen is key. And the cost of the drugs may make it impractical for all but the highest at-risk populations," says Jeffrey Laurence, MD, Editor-in-Chief of the Journal and Director of the Laboratory for [AIDS Virus](#) Research at Weill Medical College of Cornell University (New York, NY).

More information: The article is available free online at www.liebertpub.com/apc

Provided by Mary Ann Liebert, Inc.

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