



Index partner treatment: Limitations as an approach to reducing HIV transmission

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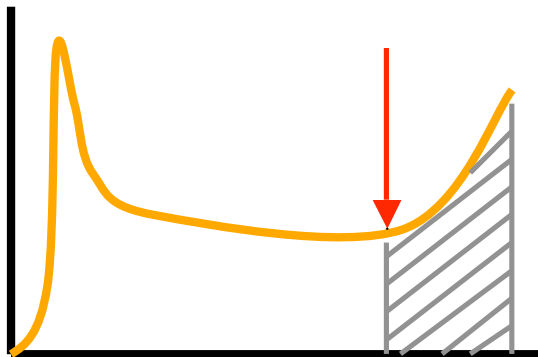
Biological: Stage of Infection

Issues:

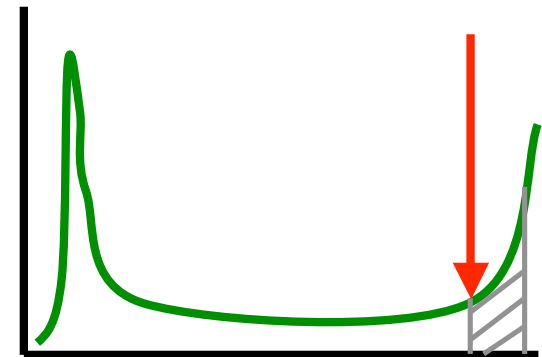
- Documented evidence of higher transmission during primary transmission
- Treatment typically initiated at much later stage of infection
- How long can durable viral suppression be achieved?

Consequence:

- Limited period over which transmission is reduced by treatment
- Potential for transmission of resistant virus



Reduction in transmission for individual over course of whole infection may not be large (proportional to area under viral load curve)



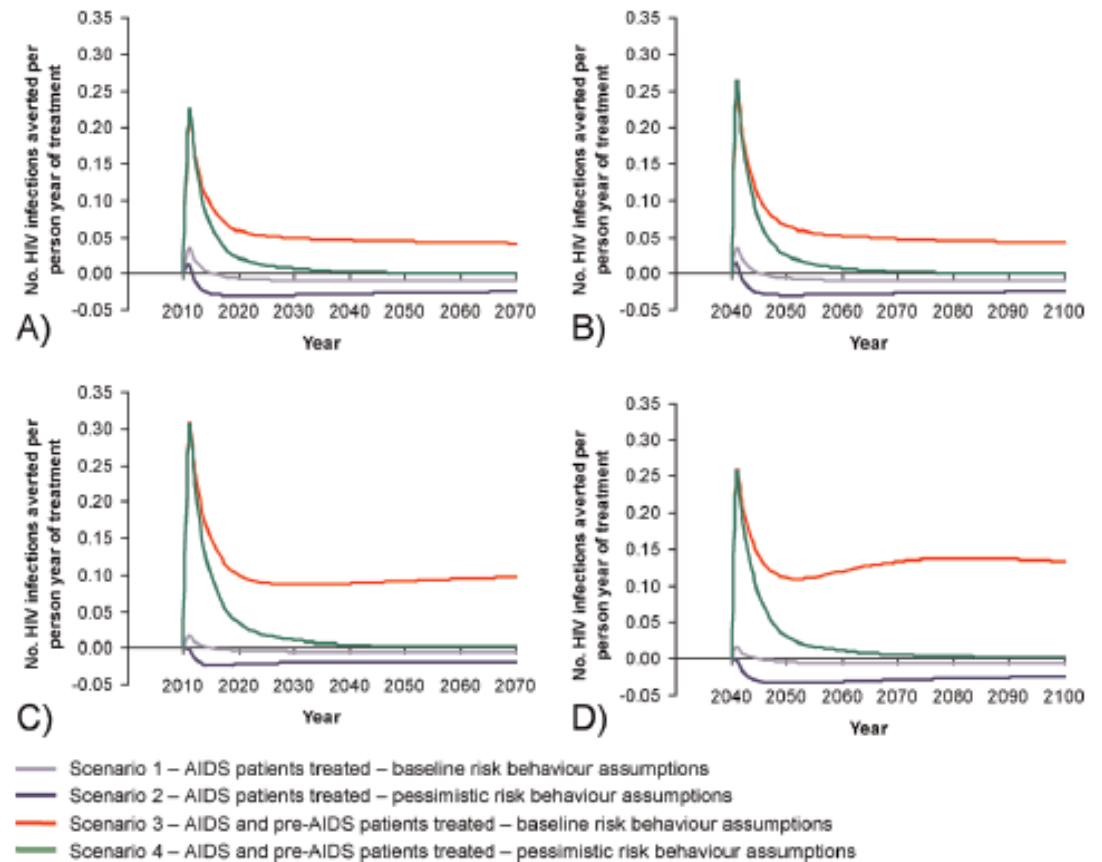
Behavioural Change

Risk:

- Treated patients may change behavior
- Lower perceived risk of onward transmission
- “Feeling better”

Consequence:

- Potential that any population-level benefit of treatment will be outweighed by increased risk-taking



Source: Baggaley, Ferguson & Garnett
PLoS Medicine 2006

What impact can index partner treatment have?

