



# Demonstration project of administering long-acting ART at Ward 86

Monica Gandhi MD, MPH

Professor of Medicine, Division of HIV, Infectious Diseases, Global Medicine, UCSF  
Director, UCSF Center for AIDS Research and Medical Director, Ward 86 HIV Clinic

Forum for Collaborative Research:  
Expanding Inclusion for Long-Acting HIV Treatment Trials Workshop  
November 10, 2022

# Adherence Challenges with ARTs

## Overall adherence to ART in US

- Among 206,474 adults with HIV treated with ART, majority had suboptimal adherence:
  - 60% had adherence < 90% and 40% had adherence < 80% (McComsey. Adv Ther.2021)

## Rates of virologic suppression worldwide:

- **In adults on ART, 79% suppression at 1 year, 65% by 3 years**
- In children/adolescents on ART, 36% suppression at 1 year, 24% at 3 years (Han. Lancet HIV 2021)

## Barriers to ART adherence:

- Systematic review of 125 studies identified main barriers to ART adherence
  - Forgetting
  - Being away from home
  - Change to daily routine
  - Depression
  - Alcohol/substance misuse
  - Secrecy/stigma
  - Feeling sick
  - Far distance to clinic
  - Stock outs

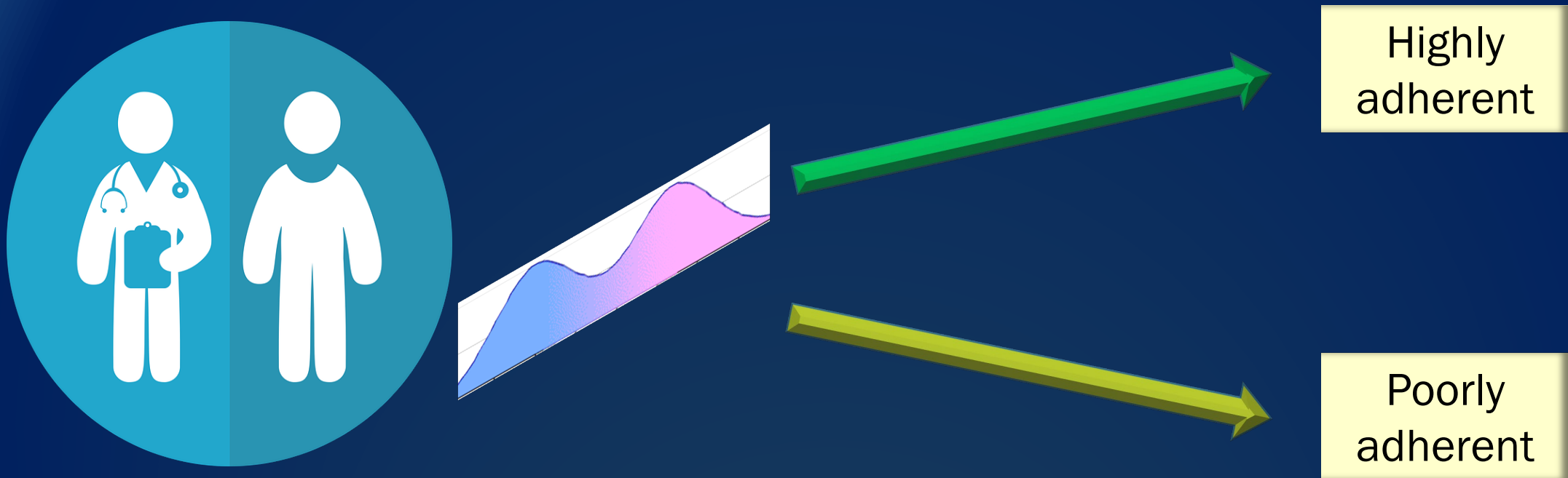
McComsey, G. A., et al. Real-World Adherence to Antiretroviral Therapy Among HIV-1 Patients Across the United States. *Advances in therapy*, 2021

Min Han W et al. Global estimates of viral suppression in children and adolescents and adults on antiretroviral therapy adjusted for missing viral load measurements: a multiregional, retrospective cohort study in 31 countries. *Lancet HIV* 2021.

Shubber, Z., et al. Patient-Reported Barriers to Adherence to Antiretroviral Therapy: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *PLoS medicine*, 2016. 13(11), e1002183.

Altice, F., et al. . Adherence to HIV treatment regimens: systematic literature review and meta-analysis. *Patient preference and adherence*, 2019

# Patient with challenges to ART adherence could benefit from long-acting ART



Would then KNOW date of “medication consumption” (not adherence, but coming in), pharmacies or mobile vans administering the shots, home health

# Original registrational trials of LA CAB/RPV- FLAIR, ATLAS and ATLAS 2M

## FLAIR

- CAB/RPV LA in treatment naïve participants -data out to 124 weeks

## ATLAS

- CAB/RPV LA in treatment experienced participants every 4 weeks- data out to 96 weeks

## ATLAS 2M

- CAB/RPV LA in treatment experienced participants every 8 weeks- data out to 152 weeks





# FLAIR

## Naïve study: “Flair for new things”

- Multicenter, randomized, open-label, phase III noninferiority study

*20-Wk Induction Phase*

*Maintenance Phase*

*Extension Phase*

ART-naïve patients  
with HIV-1 RNA  
HBsAg-negative, no  
NNRTI RAMs (K103N  
ok)

DTG/ABC/3TC  
PO QD  
(n = 629)

Wk 1

Wk 4

Wk 48

Primary endpoint

DTG/ABC/3TC PO QD  
(n = 283)

Wk 96

CAB + RPV  
PO QD  
(n = 121)

Wk 104

CAB + RPV IM Q4W\*  
(n = 119)

Wk 124

CAB + RPV IM Q4W\*  
(n = 111)

CAB + RPV  
PO QD  
(n = 283)

CAB + RPV IM Q4W\*  
(n = 278)

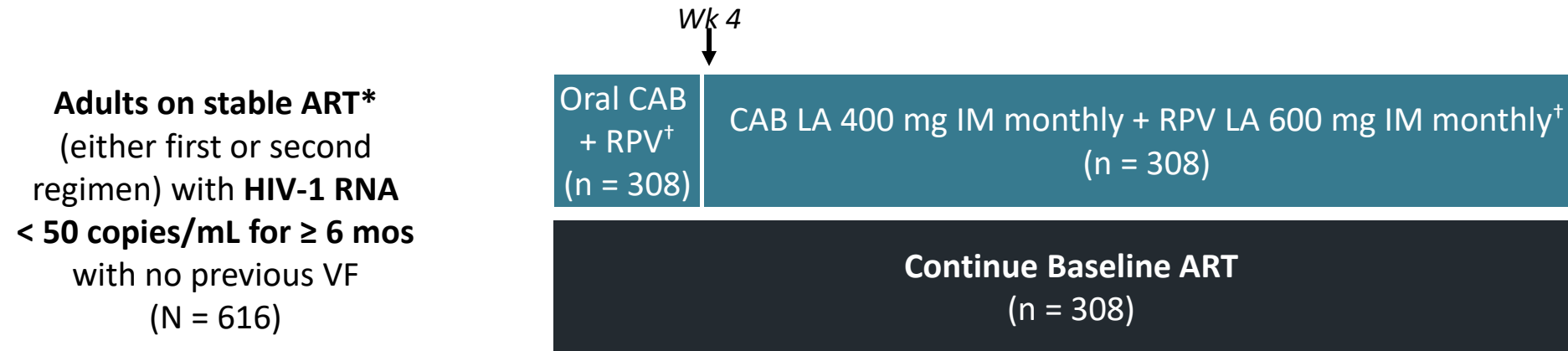
CAB + RPV IM Q4W\*  
(n = 243)

- Naïve patients, only K103N okay, suppressed on DTG/ABC/3TC x 20 weeks
- Then oral “lead in” of CAB 30mg/RPV 25mg x 28 days (111 went straight to LA)
- Then CAB 600mg IM/RPV 900mg IM x 1 (load), then CAB 400mg/RPV 600mg every 4 weeks

## Switch study: “Ah, you have traveled before”

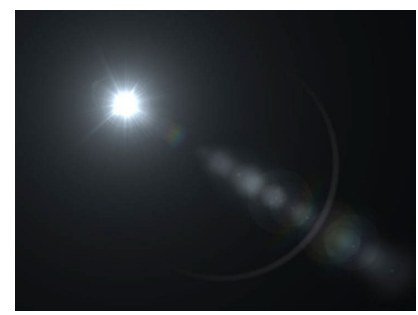


- Multicenter, randomized, open-label phase III noninferiority trial

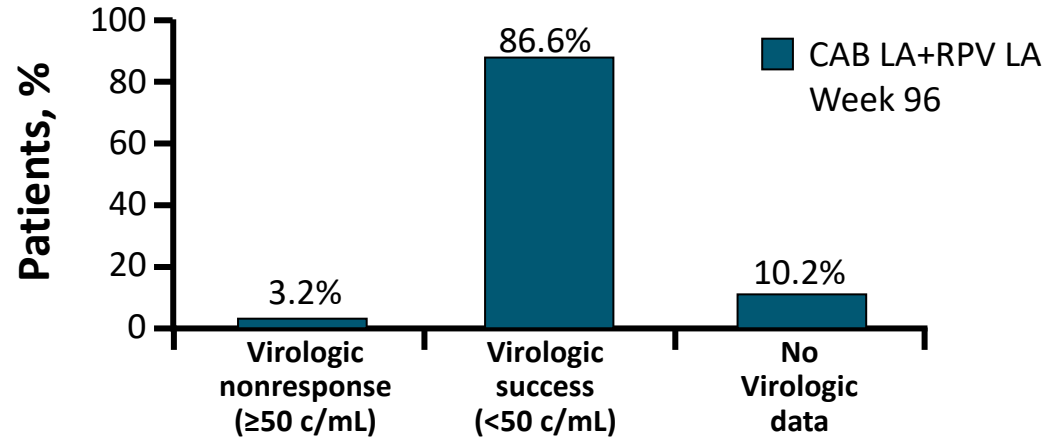


- 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> regimen, no VF in past, no known INSTI or NNRTI mutations (K103N okay), suppressed x 6 months <50 copies/mL
- Then oral “lead in” of CAB 30mg/RPV 25mg x 28 days then initiation dose (CAB 600mg IM/RPV 900mg IM), then maintenance every 4 weeks (400/600)

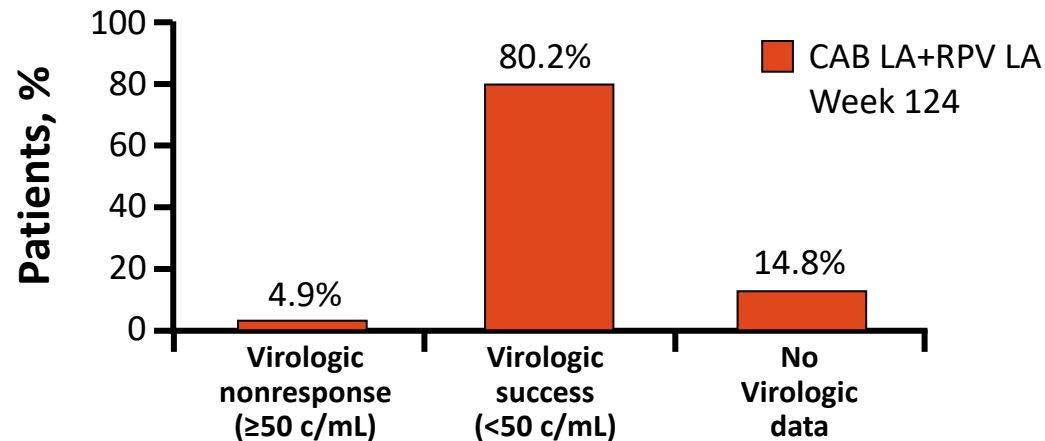
# FLAIR: Viral Suppression Through Week 124



### Virologic Outcomes at Wk 96



### Virologic Outcomes at Wk 124



## THE LANCET

Long-acting cabotegravir plus rilpivirine for treatment in adults with HIV-1 infection: 96-week results of the randomised, open-label, phase 3 FLAIR study

- 4 failures up to week 96; 1 additional failure between 96-124 weeks (at 108 weeks – male, BMI 24.7, ended up being treated with EFV/TDF/FTC after and suppressed)
- Of the 14.8% “without virologic data”, most discontinued with AEs



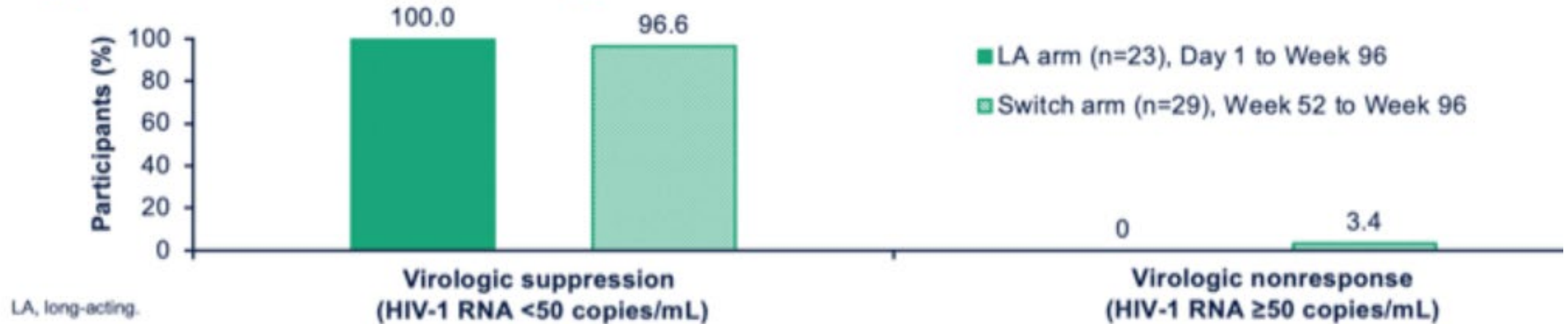
# ATLAS: 96 week data



- CAB LA + RPV LA was non-inferior to continuing 3 drug ART
- In CAB + RPV arm, 3 failures (2 of 3 had baseline NNRTI RAMs)



**Figure 2. ATLAS Week 96 Virologic Outcomes**



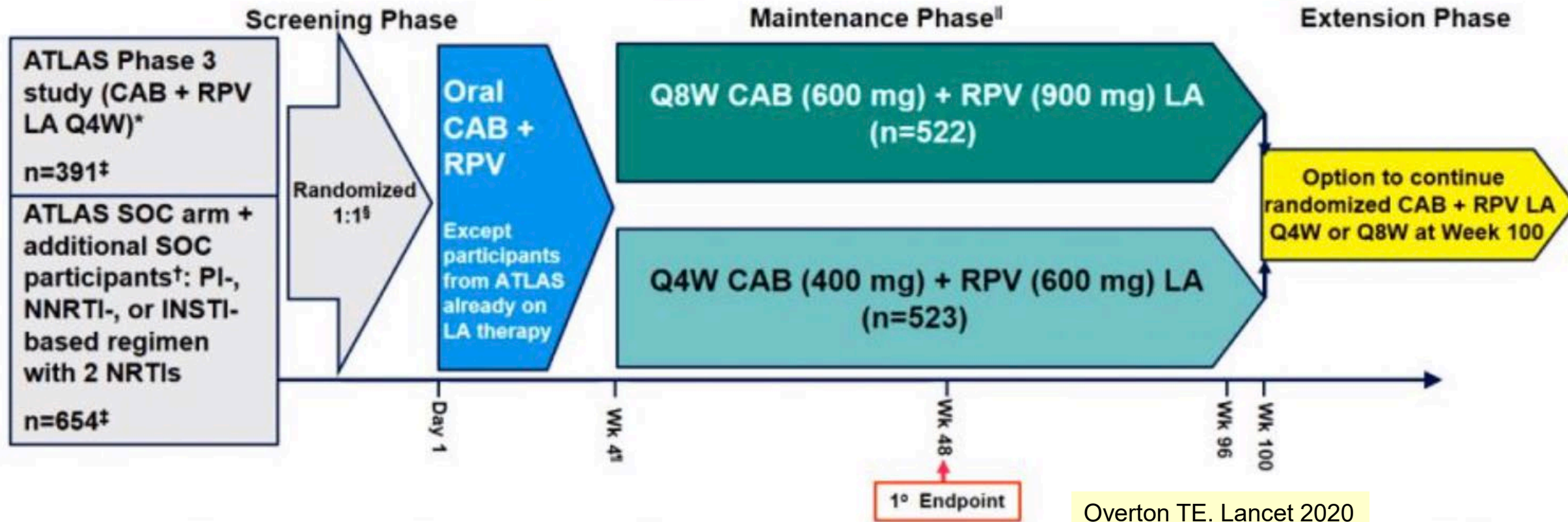


# ATLAS 2M: Cabotegravir and Rilpivirine LA every 8 weeks

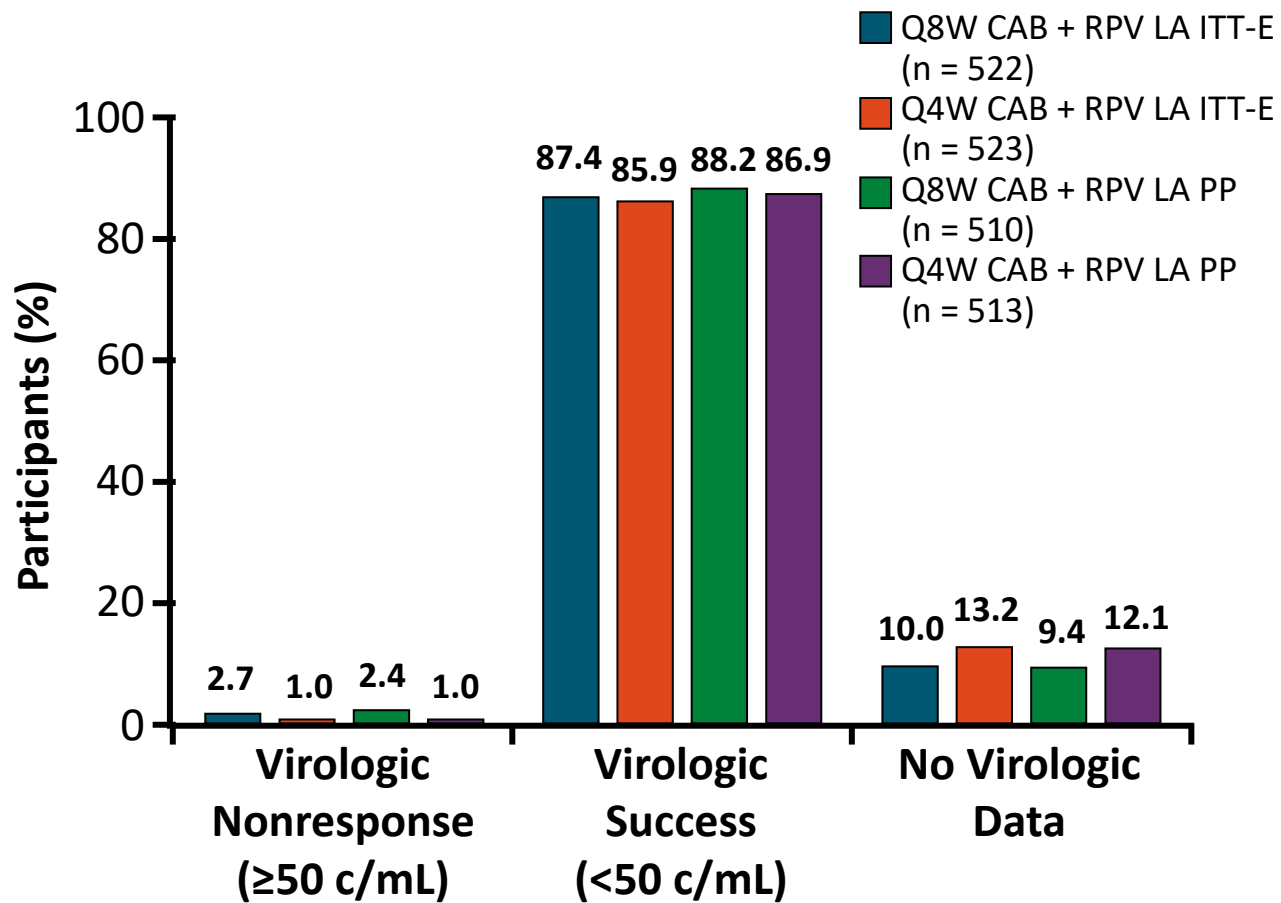
- ATLAS 2M – after q4 weeks, tried q8 weeks vs q4 weeks (ATLAS 2M)

Long-acting cabotegravir and rilpivirine dosed every 2 months in adults with HIV-1 infection (ATLAS-2M), 48-week results: a randomised, multicentre, open-label, phase 3b, non-inferiority study

Phase 3, randomized, multicenter, parallel-group, noninferiority, open-label study



# ATLAS-2M: Wk 152 Virologic Outcomes



- 2 additional participants (both male at birth, BMI <30 kg/m<sup>2</sup>) in Q8W arm met CVF criteria between Wk 96 and 152 (Wk 112, 120)
  - At BL, neither had RAMs; participant with A6 subtype had L74I integrase polymorphism

Country	Baseline	At Failure		
	HIV-1 Subtype	HIV-1 RNA (c/mL)	RPV RAMs	INI RAMs
Germany	B	24,221	E138A+ M230M/L	Q148R
Russia	A6*	59,467	E138A+ Y181Y/C	Q148R

\*Originally classified as A1; later reclassified as A6 upon reanalysis

- Through Wk 152, 13 participants had CVF: Q8W, n = 11 (2%); Q4W, n = 2 (<1%)
  - None with injection >7 days late

# Summary of resistance mutations across FLAIR/ATLAS/ATLAS 2M (1%-5% rate of failure)

Study	INSTI mutations(n)	NNRTI mutation(s) some baseline	Time of virologic failure
<b>FLAIR (4 failures)</b>	N155H, R263K, G140R, Q148R	L74I	Weeks 20, 28, 48, 108
<b>ATLAS (3 failures)</b>	N155H	L74I, E183E/A, V108V/I, E138K	Weeks 8, 12, 30
<b>ATLAS 2M (8wk) 13 failures</b>	Q148R,N155H	K101E, E138E/K, E138A, Y188L, Y181C, M230L	7: before week 24 3: week 24-48 1: week 88 2: weeks 88-152
<b>ATLAS 2M (4wk) 2 failures</b>	N155N/H,E138E/K+ Q148R	K101E, M230L	Before week 24



**HIV GLASGOW 2022**  
Drug Therapy  
Hybrid meeting | 23-26 October

[aidsmap.com](http://aidsmap.com)

Updated analysis at Glasgow:  
1.4% risk of failure 1224  
participants across trials

# Exploring predictors of HIV-1 virologic failure to long-acting cabotegravir and rilpivirine: a multivariable analysis

AIDS: July 15, 2021 - Volume 35 - Issue 9.- p 1333-1342



**Conclusion:** CVF is an infrequent multifactorial event, with a rate of approximately 1% in the long-acting CAB+RPV arms across Phase 3 studies (FLAIR, ATLAS and ATLAS-2M) through Week 48. Presence of at least two of proviral RPV RAMs, HIV-1 subtype A6/A1 and/or BMI at least 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup> was associated with increased CVF risk. These findings support the use of long-acting CAB+RPV in routine clinical practice.

BMI, low rilpivirine troughs, presence of two proviral RPV RAMS, HIV-1 subtype A6/A1 all associated with increased risk of failure (updated ID week)

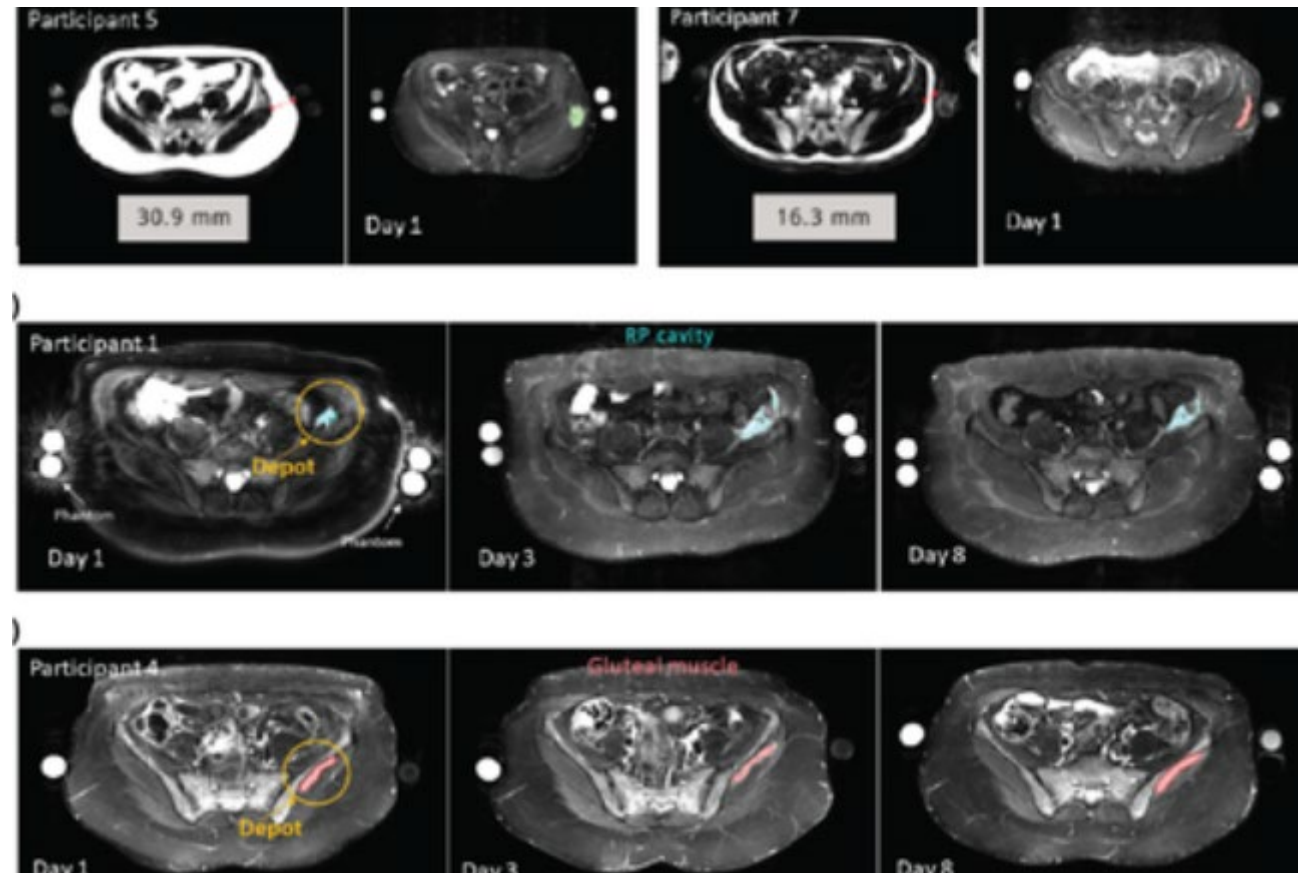


# BMI and CAB

## Combined Analysis of ATLAS, FLAIR, ATLAS-2M: Efficacy and Safety of Switch to LA CAB + RPV by BMI Class

Elliot. EACS 2021. Abstr BPD1/8.

- In this EACS study, use of longer 2-inch needles resulted in higher median CAB trough concentrations in all BMI
- Pharmacology study showed deeper injections with more adipose tissue lead to more spread
- Longer 2-inch needles recommended in participants with BMI  $\geq 30$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>





# Why study in “difficult to suppress”

TARGET POPULATIONS: Two cohorts to consider (viremic and aviremic)

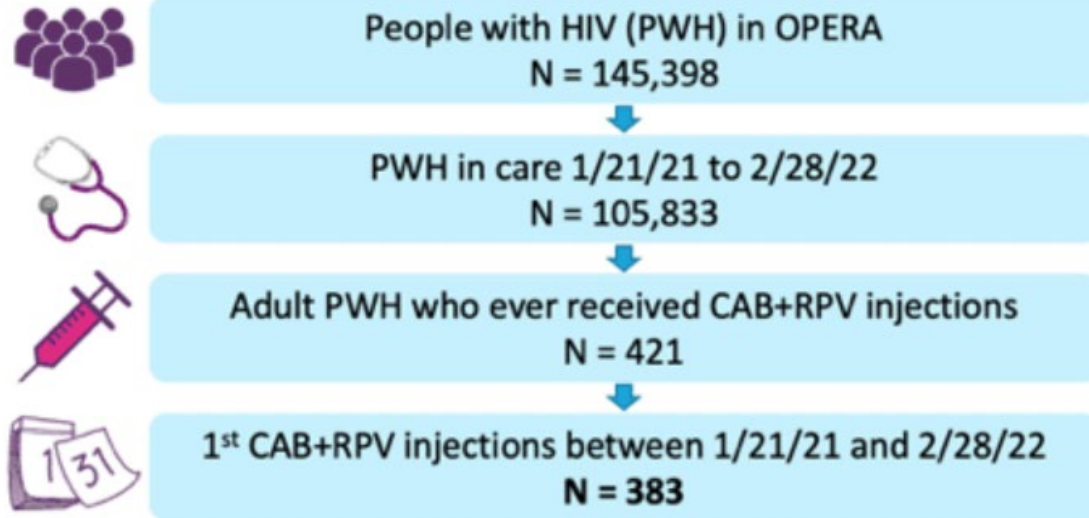
Patients with persistent or intermittent viremia despite oral ART; patients viremic and out of care

Patients at high-risk for viral rebound (*e.g.* substance users, adolescents, those with mental illness, marginally housed individuals)



REAL WORLD STUDIES

## Study population



## ART experience and baseline viral load\* at first CAB+RPV LA injections

	n (%)
Treatment-naïve	0 (0%)
Treatment-experienced, VL <50 copies/mL	321 (84%)
Treatment-experienced, VL ≥50 to <200 copies/mL	27 (7%)
Treatment-experienced VL ≥200 copies/mL	28 (7%)
No baseline VL	7 (2%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>383 (100%)</b>

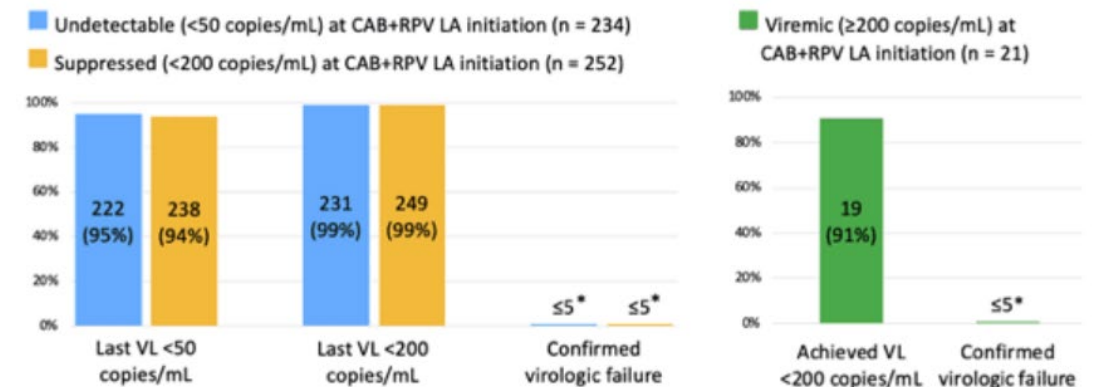
# Real-World Use of Long-Acting Cabotegravir + Rilpivirine in the US: Effectiveness in the First Year

Of 21 viremic patients started, 91% (19) suppressed



## Virologic outcomes

Among those with ≥1 VL after first injections



\*HIPAA privacy requirements preclude the reporting of 5 or fewer observations in any cell

## Equity in access to long-acting injectables in the USA

Cabotegravir, an integrase strand transfer inhibitor, and rilpivirine, a non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor, recently received regulatory approval in the

Canada, the EU, and the USA as a monthly intramuscular long-acting injectable (LAI) antiretroviral therapy regimen in adults with HIV-1 who are virologically

Published Online  
February 4, 2022  
[https://doi.org/10.1016/S2352-3018\(22\)00031-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2352-3018(22)00031-5)

*\*J Carlo Hojilla, Monica Gandhi, Derek D Satre, Mallory O Johnson, Parya Saberi*

**Why do we have to study this in hard to reach populations?**

- If wait until drug approved or not studied at outset, clinicians “flying blind” in how to use LA-ART in nonsuppressed
- Critically important population for Ending the HIV epidemic
- 10% of people living with HIV holding 90% of the virus
- Concomitant challenges in these patients

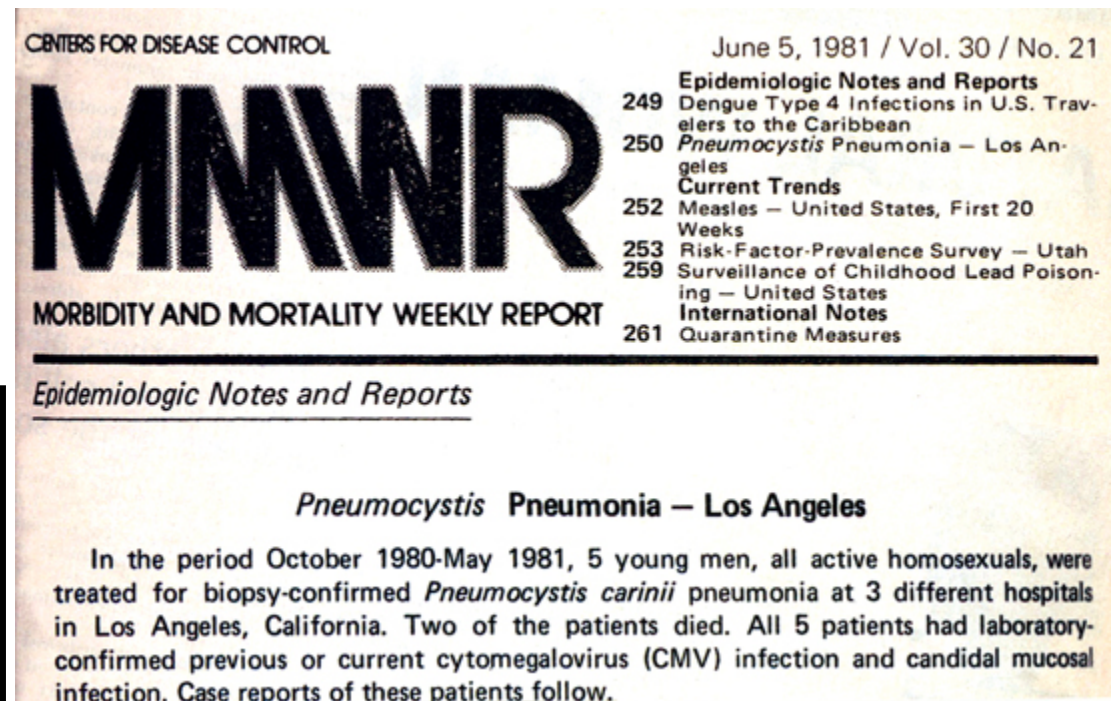
# Ward 86: Opened January 1983 at San Francisco General Hospital

- Ward 86 opens January 1, 1983 as the first outpatient HIV clinic in the US

TO: MEDICAL CLINIC PERSONNEL THROUGH DICK FINE  
FROM: Constance B. Wofsy, M.D.  
Paul Volberding, M.D. *CV*  
RE: AIDS CLINIC

The AIDS Clinic on Ward 86 (821-8830) is now open for patient visits. To keep waiting time down and provide clinic availability for this seriously ill group of patients, we ask that you refer the following patients to us.

1. Definite cases of AIDS:
  - a. Biopsy proven KS
  - b. Pneumocystis, or other serious infection seen only in the immunocompromised, or
  - c. Gay males with thrush unexplained by antecedent antibiotics or chronic perianal herpes or herpes zoster.





# Who are our patients at Ward 86?

- 96% on Medicaid or Medicare
- 4% on municipal health insurance program or uninsured
- Vulnerable population:
  - Mental Illness (now up to 45%)
  - Poverty
  - Addiction (Alcohol, heroin, cocaine methamphetamine): 35%
  - Marginal Housing (34%)



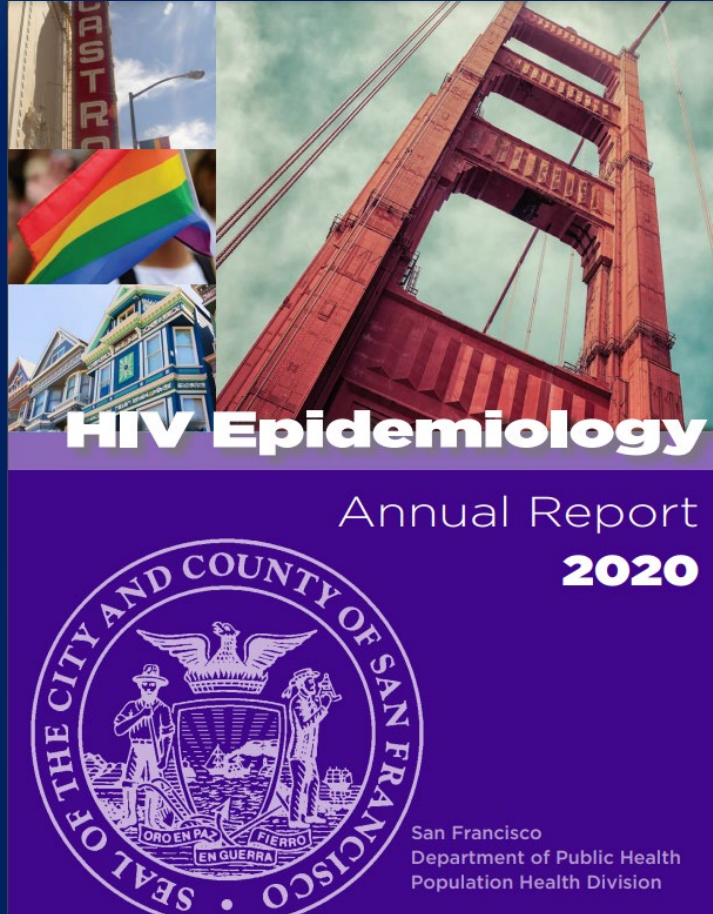
# WARD 86 LONG-ACTING INJECTABLE ANTIRETROVIRAL | PROTOCOL



Clinic leadership team: Monica Gandhi MD, MPH ([medical director](#)), Janet Grochowski Pharm D ([lead pharmacist](#)), John Szumowski MD ([associate medical director](#)), Mary Shiels RN ([associate nurse manager](#)), Jon Oskarsson RN ([clinic nurse manager](#))

We started a pilot demonstration project February 2022, with protocol (happy to share with anyone!)

# Ward 86 LA-ART Program serves our POP-UP population as well



75%

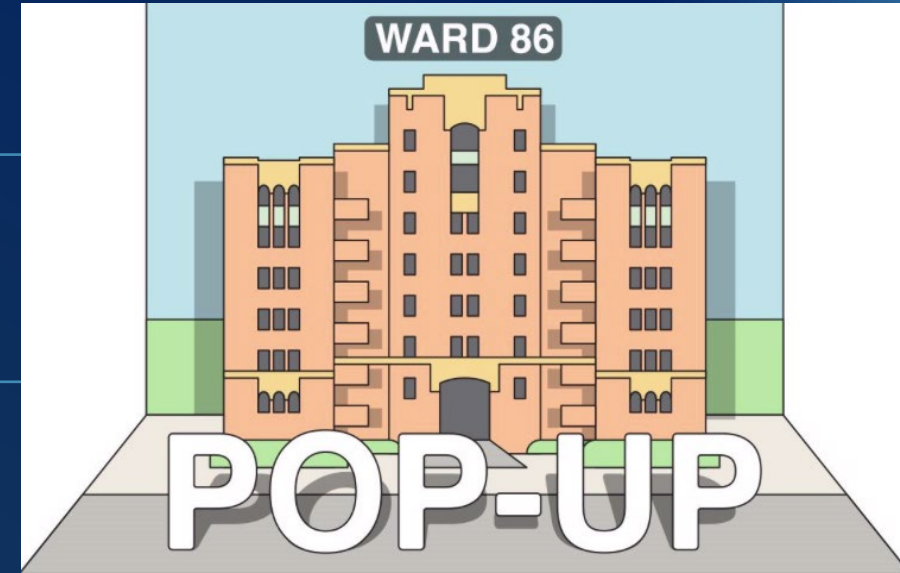
Housed persons with HIV in San Francisco are Virally Suppressed

27%

Homeless People with HIV in San Francisco are Virally Suppressed

# POP-UP program

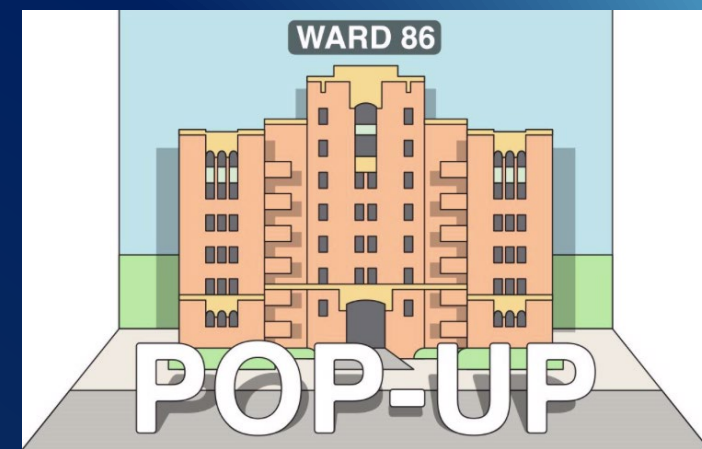
1. Homeless or Unstably housed
2. Viral load non-suppressed or off ART
3. Poor primary care visit adherence
4. Comes into Urgent Care at Ward 86 regularly



*Referred from  
Ward 86 Urgent  
Care, LINCS  
program, reach-  
out to patients  
who qualify*



# Components of POP-UP Clinic



## Medical services

- ART: Onsite start DOT 5 days a week & counseling
- Health maintenance care (vaccines, STI screening, cancer screening)
- On-site mental health services & buprenorphine initiation

## Life services

- Food resources
- Social services (SSI, ADAP, case management referral)
- Emergency housing and program referrals

*Five days a week  
Welcoming  
environment  
MD every day; RN;  
Social worker*



# Ward 86 pilot program for long-acting ART for patients with adherence challenges to oral ART

## Inclusion criteria of trials:

- Virologically suppressed x at least 16 weeks on oral regimen first
- No history of virologic failure
- Only K103N in NNRTI; no INSTI mutations
- Oral CAB/RPV x 28 days but direct-to-inject data (approved FDA March '22)

## Inclusion criteria of Ward 86

- Does not need to be virologically suppressed or take orals before
- Can go direct to inject
- No RPV or INSTI mutations (except minor)
- **Must require STRICT demonstration of every 4 week coming to clinic**
- Biweekly review of all patients

# Implementation of program



Hired pharm tech to help get injectable meds



Biweekly meetings with Pharm D, pharm tech, clinic leadership, POP-UP program leadership to review each patient on injectables or being considered



Protocol development with ongoing refinements based on observations in our pilot program



122 patients have been started on long-acting ART: rigorous protocol – will present first 100 (first 51 published)

# Demographics of 1<sup>st</sup> 100 patients at Ward 86

Characteristic (n=100)	Distribution, n (%)
<b>Age, Median (range)</b>	45 (37-54)
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Gender</b>
Cis Man	87 (89%)
Cis Woman	7 (7%)
Transgender Woman	5 (5%)
Non-binary	1 (1%)
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>	<b>Race/ethnicity</b>
Black	16 (16%)
Latino/a	32 (32%)
White	37 (37%)
Multiracial	15 (15%)
<b>Housing</b>	
Unstable	48 (54%)
Stable	33 (33%)
Homeless	8 (9%)
<b>Insurance</b>	
Medicare or Medicaid or both	98 (98%)
ADAP	2 (2%)
<b>Current Methamphetamine use</b>	35 (39%)
<b>Virologically non-suppressed (&gt;30 cp/ml)</b>	41 (41%) with log <sub>10</sub> viral load (mean, STD) 4.22 (1.33)
<b>CD4 count (mean)</b>	Virologically suppressed 676 (415–906) Virologically non-suppressed 158 (56–383)

# Results

- Between 6/8/21 – 8/5/2022, 100 patients were started on CAB/RPV-LA, of whom 59 were suppressed prior to starting injections & 41 unsuppressed

59 baseline  
suppressed

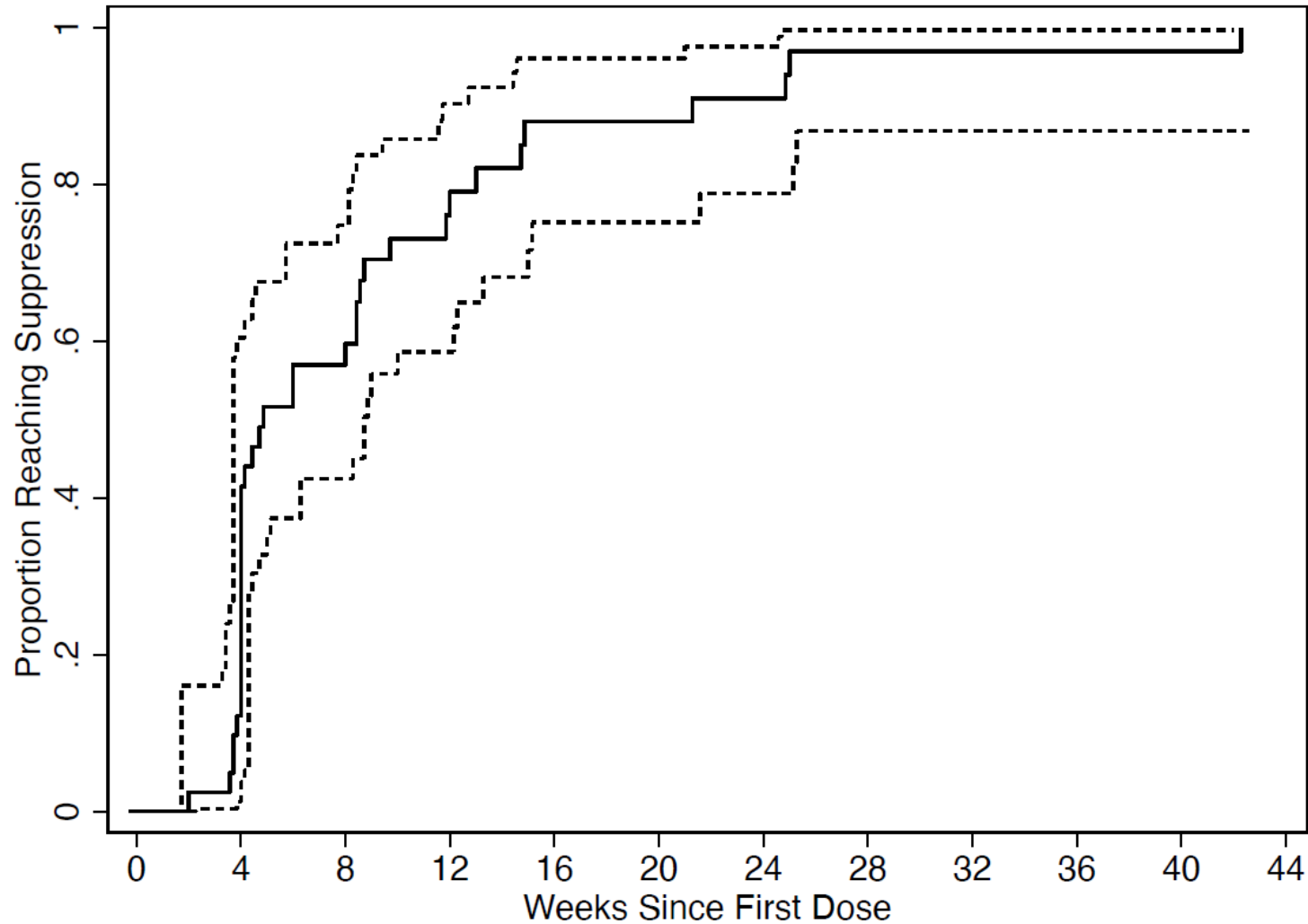
All remain  
suppressed



41 baseline  
unsuppressed

98% suppressed-  
other 2 two-log drop  
by 41 days

# Those started without virologic suppression (n=41)



At 12 weeks, 80% of people are suppressed

KM plot projects 100% suppression by 42 weeks (296 days)

Median time to suppression is 34 days, 95% CI (28 to 59 days)



# Conclusions

- Long-acting ART is here!
- Studied in virologically suppressed patients in the registrational trials
- Clinicians will want to use in those with adherence challenged
- Pilot program at Ward 86 with early success to date – 122 patients enrolled, 100 patients with results

