

Cabotegravir



What is cabotegravir?

Cabotegravir (CAB) is an anti-HIV drug that is being tested to see if it is safe, acceptable, and works to treat and/or prevent HIV. There are different types of anti-HIV drugs. Cabotegravir is a type of anti-HIV drug called an integrase inhibitor. Integrase inhibitors prevent HIV from making copies of itself and can reduce the amount of HIV in the body.

There are research studies (also called clinical trials) testing CAB in people living with HIV. These studies are known as HIV-treatment studies. There are other clinical trials testing CAB in people who do not have HIV. Those studies are known as HIV prevention studies. HPTN 084 is an HIV prevention study.

Two forms of CAB are being used in HPTN studies: a pill that is taken daily by mouth for 5 weeks only (known as oral CAB) and a long-acting injectable, received in clinic every two months (known as CAB LA; LA stands for “long-acting”). Since cabotegravir can remain in the body for up to a year or more in some people, the pill is taken for 5 weeks first to make sure there are no reactions to cabotegravir before an injection is given.

Forms of Cabotegravir



Pill (Oral CAB)



Long-acting Injectable (CAB LA)

Is cabotegravir safe and acceptable?

Studies so far have shown CAB to be safe and acceptable in both people living with HIV and people who do not have HIV. There are several ongoing studies that will continue to review the safety of CAB. Once completed, HPTN 077, HPTN 083, and HPTN 084 HIV-prevention studies will provide additional information on CAB’s safety.

What are the common side effects of cabotegravir?

The most common side effects of CAB are headache as well as some discomfort, tenderness, swelling, and/or small lumps at the location of the injection. Most side effects are mild to moderate in severity and are generally gone in 3 to 7 days. Because CAB is still being studied, information on possible side effects is not complete. As more people use CAB during clinical trials additional information about side effects will be collected and shared.

Can cabotegravir work for the treatment and prevention of HIV?

It is not yet known if CAB can work as treatment to improve the health of people living with HIV. It is also not known if CAB can prevent people who are HIV uninfected from becoming infected with HIV. However, information from completed research studies support the idea that CAB may work for both HIV treatment and prevention. More information about whether CAB successfully treats and prevents HIV infection will be learned from ongoing studies and will be shared.

What cabotegravir research is the HPTN conducting?

1. HPTN 077 is testing the safety and acceptability of CAB in people who are at low risk of becoming infected with HIV. Early results released in July 2017 showed CAB LA to be well tolerated by men and women. The results also support how often and what amount of CAB LA is being given in HPTN 083 and HPTN 084.
2. HPTN 083 is testing whether an injection of CAB given once every two months works as well as a Truvada pill taken every day for HIV prevention in cisgender men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender women (TGW) who have sex with men.
3. HPTN 084 is testing whether an injection of CAB given once every two months works better than a Truvada pill taken every day for HIV prevention in women.

What is HPTN 084?

HPTN 084 (LIFE) is the first study to test whether an injection of cabotegravir (CAB) given once every two months works better than a Truvada pill taken every day for HIV prevention in women. HPTN 084 will enroll about 3,200 women, 18 to 45 years-old, who are at risk for acquiring HIV in the following countries:

- Botswana
- Kenya
- Malawi
- South Africa
- Swaziland
- Uganda
- Zimbabwe



Where can I find out more information about HPTN 084?

For more information please visit www.084LIFE.org.

What is HPTN?

The HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN) is a worldwide collaborative clinical trials network that brings together investigators, ethicists, community and other partners to develop and test the safety and efficacy of interventions designed to prevent the acquisition and transmission of HIV. HPTN studies evaluate new HIV prevention interventions and strategies in populations and geographical regions that bear a disproportionate burden of infection. The HPTN research agenda is focused primarily on the use of integrated strategies: use of antiretroviral drugs (antiretroviral therapy and pre-exposure prophylaxis); interventions for substance abuse, particularly injection drug use; behavioral risk reduction interventions and structural interventions. NIH funds HPTN. For more information, visit hptn.org.

22 February 2018

Version 1.0

