

# HIV 101: Initiation of Antiretroviral Therapy and Primary Care for People With HIV

**Michael S. Saag, MD**

Professor Emeritus  
University of Alabama at Birmingham  
Birmingham, AL, USA

**Melanie A. Thompson, MD**

Co-chair, HIVMA/IDSA HIV  
Primary Care Guidance  
Thacker & Thompson, MD  
Atlanta, GA, USA



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Financial Relationships With Ineligible Companies\* (Formerly Described as Commercial Interests by the ACCME)

### Speakers

Dr Saag has received research grants and support awarded to his institution from Gilead Sciences, Inc and Viiv Healthcare, and serves as a consultant to TFF Pharmaceuticals and American Gene Technologies. (Updated 9/28/22)

Dr Thompson serves as chair of the independent data monitoring committee for Excision BioTherapeutics, and her institution has received research grants from Cepheid, Frontier Biotechnologies, Gilead Sciences, Inc, GlaxoSmithKline, Merck Sharp and Dohme, and Viiv Healthcare. (Updated 9/28/22)

### Planner/Reviewer

Planner/Reviewer 1 has no relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies to disclose. (09/28/22)

Planner/Reviewer 2 has no relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies to disclose. (09/28/22)

The IAS-USA has identified and resolved ahead of time any possible conflicts of interest that may influence this CME activity with regard to exposition or conclusion. All relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies have been indicated among the planners, the CCIW Board and the presenter.

\*The ACCME defines ineligible companies (formerly described as commercial companies) as those whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients.

Slide 2

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Conference Funding

This conference is funded by Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number U10HA28686 (AIDS Education and Training Center National Coordinating Resource Center) awarded François-Xavier Bagnoud Center from the Rutgers University School of Nursing with a sub award to International Antiviral Society-USA (IAS-USA) to sponsor this CME activity.

Slide 3

---

---

---

---

---

---



---

---

**IAS-USA CME**

The International Antiviral Society-USA (IAS-USA) is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The IAS-USA designates this live activity for a maximum of **2.00 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™**. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Slide 4

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**This activity has been approved for up to:**

- 2.00 CME credits
- 2.00 ABIM MOC points
- 2.00 Nursing contact hours
- 2.00 Hours of pharmacotherapy credit
- 2.00 Pharmacy contact hours (0.200 CEUs)

Instructions for claiming credit are on [www.iasusa.org](http://www.iasusa.org)



Slide 5

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

The on-demand recording and slides from this webinar will be available within 24 hours after the live broadcast at [www.iasusa.org/activities/webinars/on-demand-webinars/](http://www.iasusa.org/activities/webinars/on-demand-webinars/)

Slide 6

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Navigating This Activity

**Poll Questions**

- A separate window will show the poll question
- Choose your response for the poll
- Responses will be displayed after the poll closes

---

**How to Submit Questions**

- Submit questions using the Q&A button
- We apologize in advance if we are not able to address all questions in the time allotted

**Chat is Open**

- Use Chat to start discussion with other attendees
- **Do not submit questions to Chat as presenter and moderator will only monitor questions submitted to Q&A**

Slide 7

---

---

---

---

---


---

---

---

## HIV 101: Fundamentals of Antiretroviral Therapy

**Michael S. Saag, MD**  
 Professor Emeritus  
 University of Alabama at Birmingham  
 Birmingham, AL, USA



2022 Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program CLINICAL CONFERENCE

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Poll Question #1

What is the setting of your current work?

1. Clinical research
2. Clinical/sessional work
3. Commercial company (eg, pharmaceutical)
4. Community-based health center/clinic
5. Government
6. Hospital based
7. In fellowship or other training
8. Laboratory research
9. Managed care organization
10. Other

Slide 8

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this webinar, learners will be able to:

- Basic mechanisms of antiretroviral therapy
- Antiretroviral regimens based on patient parameters

Slide 10

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Pretest Question #1

A 32 year old is started on his first ARV regimen. Within 1 week, his serum creatinine increased from 1.0 to 1.15 mg/dl. Which of the following drugs is most likely responsible for the 0.15 mg/dl increase in serum creatinine?

1. Tenofovir DF (TDF)
2. Tenofovir AF (TAF)
3. Abacavir
4. Bictegravir
5. Emtricitabine

Slide 11

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Pretest Question #2

A 23 year old woman has been told she is 3 weeks pregnant. An HIV test is positive and her HIV RNA level is 12,000 c/ml, CD4 count 456 cells/ $\mu$ L. She has no underlying medical conditions and no concomitant medications. Which of the following regimens is the best option for ARV treatment?

1. TAF / FTC / Bictegravir
2. TAF / FTC / Dolutegravir
3. TDF / FTC / Doravirine
4. TDF / FTC / Atazanavir / cobicistat
5. TAF / FTC / Elvitegravir / cobicistat

Slide 12

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



**Common Rules of Antiretroviral Therapy**

- Use multiple drugs targeting more than one mechanism of viral replication
- Maintain full adherence to therapy
- Start ARV therapy as early in the course of infection as possible
- Treat ~ everyone, even "Elite Controllers"
- Low level viremia is not ARV Failure
- Absence of a robust CD4 count response is not ARV Failure
- U = U (including mother-to-child transmission)

Slide 16

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Common Rules of Antiretroviral Therapy**

- Use multiple drugs targeting more than one mechanism of viral replication
- Maintain full adherence to therapy
- Start ARV therapy as early in the course of infection as possible
- Treat ~ everyone, even "Elite Controllers"
- Low level viremia is not ARV Failure
- Absence of a robust CD4 count response is not ARV Failure
- U = U (including mother-to-child transmission)

Slide 17

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

BACK TO BASICS

Slide 18

---

---

---

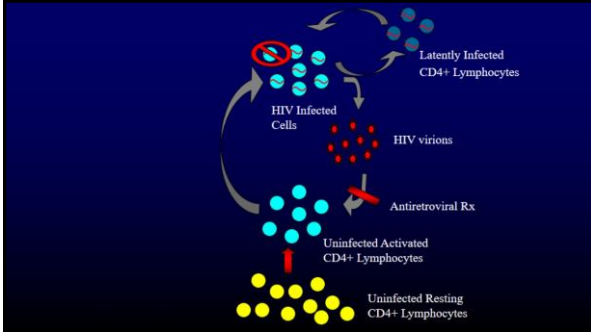
---

---

---

---

---




---



---



---



---



---



---

- Common Rules of Antiretroviral Therapy**
- Use multiple drugs targeting more than one mechanism of viral replication
  - **Maintain full adherence to therapy**
  - Start ARV therapy as early in the course of infection as possible
  - Treat ~ everyone, even "Elite Controllers"
  - Low level viremia is not ARV Failure
  - Absence of a robust CD4 count response is not ARV Failure
  - U = U (including mother-to-child transmission)
- Slide 20

---



---



---



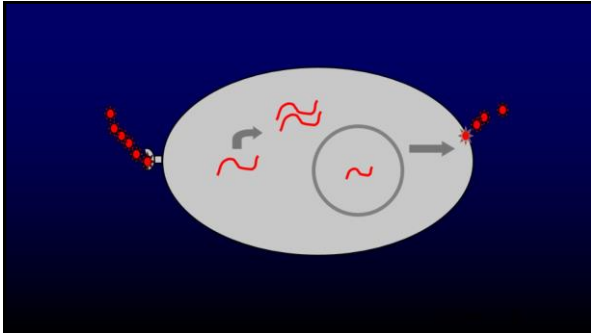
---



---



---




---



---



---



---



---



---

### Common Rules of Antiretroviral Therapy

- Use multiple drugs targeting more than one mechanism of viral replication
- Maintain full adherence to therapy
- Start ARV therapy as early in the course of infection as possible
- Treat ~ everyone, even "Elite Controllers"
- Low level viremia is not ARV Failure
- Absence of a robust CD4 count response is not ARV Failure
- U = U (including mother-to-child transmission)

Slide 22

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Inverse Probability Weighted Cox Regression Multivariate Analysis

*Stratified by Cohort and Year	Relative Hazard (RH) <sup>a</sup>	95% Confidence Interval	P-value
Deferral of HAART at 351-500	1.7	1.4, 2.1	<0.001
Female Sex	1.1	0.9, 1.5	0.290
Older Age (per 10 years)	1.6	1.5, 1.8	<0.001
Baseline CD4 count (per 100 cells/mm <sup>3</sup> )	0.9	0.7, 1.0	0.083

- Results were similar when restricting the analysis to the 77% of participants with baseline HIV RNA data
- Adjusted RH for deferral vs. immediate treatment was also 1.7 95% C.I. 1.4, 2.2; p <0.0001
- HIV RNA was not an independent predictor of mortality

---

---

---

---

---

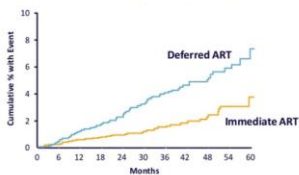
---

---

---

### START: 57% Reduced Risk of Serious Events or Death With Immediate ART

- Serious AIDS or non-AIDS event or death: 4.1% vs. 1.8% in deferred vs. immediate ART (HR 0.43; 95% CI 0.30-0.62; P<0.001)



Slide 24

INSIGHT START Study Group. N Engl J Med. 2015

---

---

---

---

---

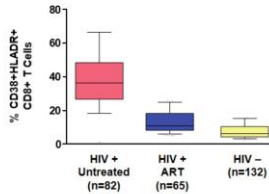
---

---

---



T cell "activation" is lower in treated than untreated adults, but consistently higher than "normal"



9848 25 *Hunt et al JID 2003, PLoS ONE 2011 and unpublished*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

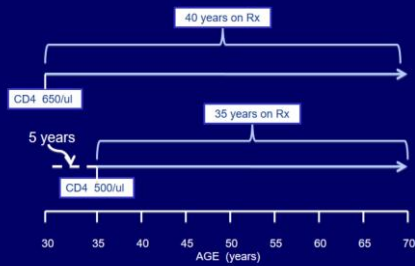
---

---

---

Relative Time on Treatment...

Slide 26




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

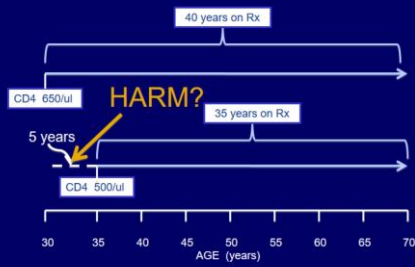
---

---

---

Relative Time on Treatment...

Slide 27




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Common Rules of Antiretroviral Therapy

- Use multiple drugs targeting more than one mechanism of viral replication
- Maintain full adherence to therapy
- Start ARV therapy as early in the course of infection as possible
- **Treat ~ everyone, even "Elite Controllers"**
- Low level viremia is not ARV Failure
- Absence of a robust CD4 count response is not ARV Failure
- U = U (including mother-to-child transmission)

Slide 28

---

---

---

---

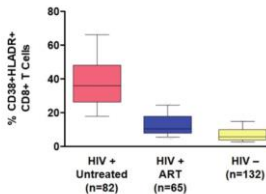
---

---

---

---

T cell "activation" is lower in treated than untreated adults, but consistently higher than "normal"



Slide 29

Hunt et al JID 2003, PLoS ONE 2011 and unpublished

---

---

---

---

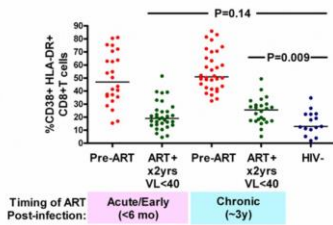
---

---

---

---

Early ART Also Appears to Reduce Residual T Cell Activation during ART



Slide 30

Jain et al, CROI 2011

---

---

---

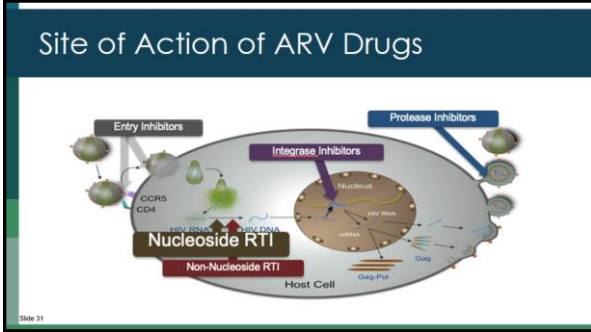
---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

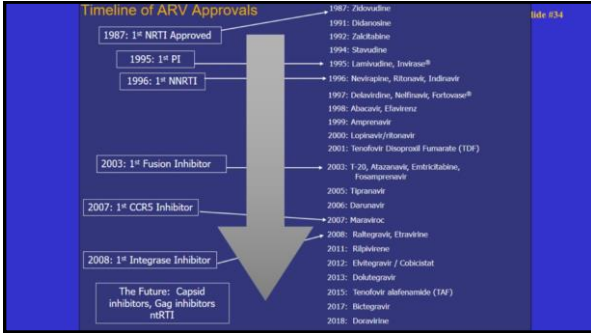
---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### IAS-USA ARV Guidelines 1996 – 2020

Slide 33

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Key Recommendations for When to Start Antiretroviral Therapy

- Initiate as soon as possible after diagnosis, including immediately (rapid or same-day start) if the patient is ready
- Remove any structural barriers that delay ART
- In setting of starting OI treatment, begin ART within 2 weeks for most OIs
- **Exceptions are:**
  - Tuberculosis: within 2-8 weeks
    - Within 2-weeks for those with < 50 CD4 cells/ $\mu$ L\*
    - Within 2-8 weeks for those with higher CD4 cells counts
  - Cryptococcal meningitis: 2- 4 weeks
- For individuals with cancer, immediate ART initiation with close attention to drug-drug interactions and monitoring for early ART adverse events

Slide 34

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Recommended Initial ART for Most People With HIV

- Bictegravir/tenofovir alafenamide/emtricitabine
- Dolutegravir plus TAF/FTC or TDF/FTC or TAF/3TC
- Dolutegravir/lamivudine with caveats\*

\*Not recommended for:

- 1) rapid start (before results of hepatitis B and HIV genotypic testing are available)
  - 2) patients with chronic hepatitis B
  - 3) patients with HIV RNA level >500,000 copies/mL, or perhaps with CD4 cell count <200/ $\mu$ L
  - 4) patients being treated for an active opportunistic infection
- Monitor for adherence and virological response closely.

Slide 35

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Other Recommended Initial ART Regimens

- Darunavir/cobicistat/TAF/FTC or + TDF/3TC
- Dolutegravir/abacavir/3TC
- Doravirine/TDF/3TC or + TAF/FTC or + TDF/3TC
- Efavirenz (400 mg or 600 mg) + TDF/3TC or + TDF/FTC
- Raltegravir + TAF/FTC or + TDF/FTC or + TDF/3TC
- Rilpivirine/TAF/FTC or /TDF/3TC

\* See advantages and disadvantages in the article

Slide 36

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Recommendations for Starting ARV in the Setting of OIs

- Active TB; on rifamycin
  - Dolutegravir 50 mg bid
  - Efavirenz 600 mg qd
  - Raltegravir 800 mg bid } plus 2 nRTIs
- Bictegravir with rifampin is not recommended
- Boosted PIs:
  - Only if an InSTI or efavirenz is not available
  - If possible, rifabutin not rifampin should be used with PIs

Slide 37

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Recommended Initial ART During Pregnancy

- Atazanavir/ritonavir
  - Darunavir/ritonavir
  - **Dolutegravir**
  - Efavirenz
  - Raltegravir
  - Rilpivirine
- } plus TXF/XTC

Slide 38

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Common Rules of Antiretroviral Therapy

- Use multiple drugs targeting more than one mechanism of viral replication
- Maintain full adherence to therapy
- Start ARV therapy as early in the course of infection as possible
- Treat ~ everyone, even "Elite Controllers"
- **Low level viremia is not ARV Failure**
- Absence of a robust CD4 count response is not ARV Failure
- U = U (including mother-to-child transmission)

Slide 39

---

---

---

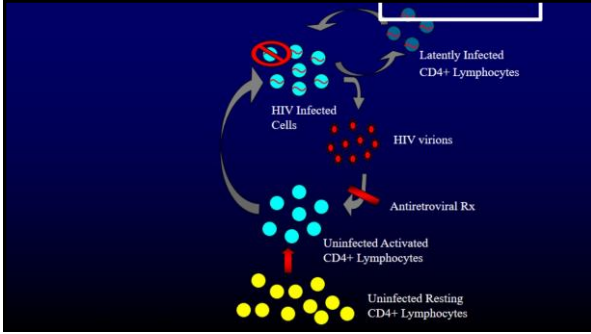
---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

- Common Rules of Antiretroviral Therapy**
- Use multiple drugs targeting more than one mechanism of viral replication
  - Maintain full adherence to therapy
  - Start ARV therapy as early in the course of infection as possible
  - Treat ~ everyone, even "Elite Controllers"
  - Low level viremia is not ARV Failure
  - Absence of a robust CD4 count response is not ARV Failure
  - U = U (including mother-to-child transmission)

---

---

---

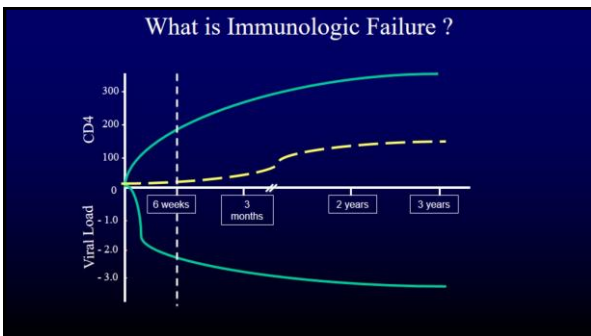
---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Common Rules of Antiretroviral Therapy

- Use multiple drugs targeting more than one mechanism of viral replication
- Maintain full adherence to therapy
- Start ARV therapy as early in the course of infection as possible
- Treat ~ everyone, even "Elite Controllers"
- Low level viremia is not ARV Failure
- Absence of a robust CD4 count response is not ARV Failure
- U = U (including mother-to-child transmission)

Slide 43

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Conclusions

- Understanding HIV viral life-cycle is critical to understanding basis of ARV therapy
- ARV therapy interrupts HIV replication ~ completely, halting the most of the damage done by HIV
- ARV therapy protects uninfected cells from becoming infected and has no effect on cells already infected
- All ARV drugs target specific sites within the viral life-cycle
- Initiate ARV Rx with an InSTI and 2 nucleosides (occasionally 1 or with an NNRTI)
- Timing of initiation may be delayed with certain OIs

Slide 44

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Posttest Question #1

A 32 year old is started on his first ARV regimen. Within 1 week, his serum creatinine increased from 1.0 to 1.15 mg/dl. Which of the following drugs is most likely responsible for the 0.15 mg/dl increase in serum creatinine?

1. Tenofovir DF (TDF)
2. Tenofovir AF (TAF)
3. Abacavir
4. Bictegravir
5. Emtricitibine

Slide 45

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Posttest Question #2**

A 23 year old woman has been told she is 3 weeks pregnant. An HIV test is positive and her HIV RNA level is 12,000 c/ml, CD4 count 456 cells/ $\mu$ L. She has no underlying medical conditions and no concomitant medications. Which of the following regimens is the best option for ARV treatment?

1. TAF / FTC / Bictegravir
2. TAF / FTC / Dolutegravir
3. TDF / FTC / Doravirine
4. TDF / FTC / Atazanavir / cobicistat
5. TAF / FTC / Elvitegravir / cobicistat

Slide 46

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Changes/Queries**

- Slides 1-7: Added introduction slides for Dr Saag to go over
- Slide 9: Added poll test questions
- Slide 10: Added learning objectives
- Slides 11-12, 45-46: Added pre/posttest questions, minor text edits

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---