



# HIV and Comorbidities

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## Objectives

1. Recognize chronic comorbid diseases that may occur in people with HIV (PWH)
2. Recommend interventions for modifiable risks for comorbid diseases in PWH



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## Case

- 52 year old man presents to the emergency room with crushing substernal chest pain and is diagnosed with a heart attack
- He was diagnosed with HIV 12 years ago
  - Lowest CD4 count 40 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>, highest HIV viral load 75,000 copies/mL
  - Current CD4 count 550 with HIV viral load <20 copies/mL
  - Current antiretroviral therapy (ART) Trimeq (abacavir, lamivudine and dolutegravir)
  - No other medications
  - + Smoker




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## Mentimeter

Of the following, which is associated with the highest relative risk for heart attack in this patient?

- A. Cigarette smoking
- B. Lipid level (LDL 180/HDL 30)
- C. Abacavir use
- D. HIV infection




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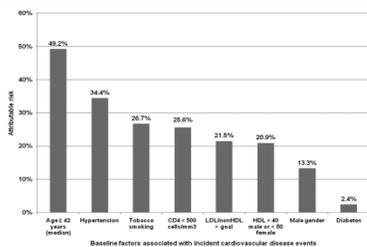
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## Risk Factors For Cardiovascular Events: HIV Outpatient Study



Lichtenstein KA. Clin Infect Dis 2010;51(4):435-447.

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### Cardiovascular Risk Reduction in PWH

- Start ART as soon as possible after diagnosis
- Achieve and sustain suppressed HIV RNA levels
- Encourage smoking cessation
- Promote physical activity
- Manage lipid, blood pressure, or glycemic abnormalities
- Adhere to the ACC/AHA dietary guidelines
- Role of aspirin as primary prevention of CVD in PWH not well studied yet

National HIV Curriculum. November 2020. Available at <https://www.hiv.law.edu/go/screening-diagnosis/epidemiology/core-concept/all/hiv-prevalence>. Accessed 11.15.20.



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### Mentimeter

Which of the following is **false**?

- A. HIV is now an independent ASCVD Risk enhancer
- B. Validated CV risk assessment tools for use in PWH exist
- C. Important drug interactions can exist between ART and statins
- D. All PWH should be evaluated for ASCVD risk



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### Risks for Cardiovascular Disease

- HIV is now a recognized independent ASCVD risk enhancer in the 2018 ACC/AHA multispecialty cholesterol management guidelines
  - No validated ASCVD risk assessment tools for PWH currently exist
    - Pooled cohort equations from the 2013 ACC/AHA guidelines
  - All patients should be assessed for ASCVD risk and evaluated and managed according to established guidelines



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## Updated Primary Care Guidance: Lipids

- Recommendation 77
  - Lipid levels should be obtained prior to and within 1-3 months after starting ART. Patients with abnormal lipid levels should be managed according to the National Lipid Association Part 2 and 2018 Multispecialty Blood Cholesterol Guidelines

Thompson MA et al. Primary Care Guidance for Persons with HIV 2020 Update. *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, ciaa1391. <https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciaa1391>  
Published: 6 November 2020.




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## Case

Bernard is a 57 year old African American man diagnosed with HIV 10 years ago, new to your practice 3 months ago. When initially seen in your clinic, he was noted to have high cholesterol. Smoking cessation, exercise and heart healthy diet counseling were provided. He declined referral to the Tobacco Free Florida Quitline.

Social History: Smokes 1 pack of cigarettes daily. Drinks 6 beers daily.

ART: Genvoya (TAF/FTC/EVG/c)

PMH: Hypertension managed with lisinopril 20 mg daily

BP 149/86

Labs done 1 week ago: HIV RNA < 20 copies/mL CD4 count 545 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>

Lipids:

- Total cholesterol 208 mg/dL
- HDL: 42 mg/dL
- Trigs: 110 mg/dL
- LDL: 142 mg/dL

Remainder of labs were normal




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### Heart Risk Calculator

Home About Contact

26.9%

10-year risk of heart disease or stroke

On the basis of your age and calculated risk for heart disease or stroke over 10%, the USPSTF guidelines suggest you **start taking aspirin every day** if you are not at increased risk for bleeding and are willing to take it every day for at least 10 years.

On the basis of your age and calculated risk for heart disease or stroke over 7.5%, the ACC/AHA guidelines suggest you should be on a **moderate to high intensity statin**.

Based on your age and race, your blood pressure is **poorly-controlled**, and you should **initiate lifestyle interventions and consider starting a thiazide diuretic or calcium channel blocker**.

Demography	Cholesterol	Blood pressure	Risk factors
Age: 57	Total: 208	Systolic: 149	Diabetes: no
Gender: male	HDL: 42	Diastolic: 86	Smoking: yes
Race: African-American		On medication: yes	

**Moderate intensity statin** may be atorvastatin 10mg, pravastatin 40mg, or simvastatin 20-40mg. **High intensity statin** may be atorvastatin 40mg-80mg




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**Mentimeter**

What is the estimated fold change increased risk of cardiovascular events in people with HIV compared to those without HIV?

- A. 5-6
- B. 4-5
- C. 10-12
- D. 1.5-2




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Heart Risk Calculator Home About Contact

Average baseline risk x HIV risk = 26.9% x (1.5-2.0) = 40-54%

**26.9%**  
10-year risk of heart disease or stroke

On the basis of your age and calculated risk for heart disease or stroke over 10%, the ACC/AHA guidelines suggest you **start taking aspirin 81mg every day** if you are not at increased risk for bleeding and are willing to take it every day for at least 10 years.

On the basis of your age and calculated risk for heart disease or stroke over 7.5%, the ACC/AHA guidelines suggest you **should be on a moderate to high intensity statin**.

Based on your age and race, your blood pressure is **poorly-controlled**, and you **should initiate diuretic, nonverapamil and consider starting a thiazide diuretic or calcium channel blocker**.

Demography	Cholesterol	Blood pressure	Risk factors
Age: 57	Total: 208	Systemic: 149	Diabetes: no
Gender: male	HDL: 42	Diastolic: 86	Smoking: yes
Race: African-American		On medication: yes	




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**Mentimeter**

Of the statin options listed below, which is contraindicated for use in Bernard given his current ART (Genvoya)?

- A. Simvastatin 20 mg daily
- B. Atorvastatin 10 mg daily
- C. Pravastatin 40 mg daily




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## Diabetes and HIV

Random or fasting blood glucose and hemoglobin A1c should be obtained prior to starting ART. If random glucose is abnormal, fasting glucose should be obtained. After initiation of ART, only plasma glucose criteria should be used to diagnose diabetes. Patients with diabetes mellitus should have a HbA1c level monitored every 6 months with an HbA1c goal of <7%, in accordance with the American Diabetes Association Guidelines.

Thompson MA et al. Primary Care Guidance for Persons with HIV: 2020 Update. *Clinical Infectious Diseases*. ciaa1391. <https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciaa1391>  
Published: 6 November 2020




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## HIV, Diabetes and Hemoglobin A1c

- In the general population, the diagnostic criteria for diabetes consists of:
  - Fasting plasma glucose  $\geq$  126 mg/dl or
  - 2-hour plasma glucose level  $\geq$  200 mg/dL during an oral glucose tolerance test conducted with a standard 75 g load or
  - HbA1c  $\geq$  6.5% or
  - If classic symptoms of hyperglycemia or hyperglycemic crisis, a random plasma glucose  $\geq$  200 mg/dL
- However, studies have shown HbA1c may underestimate glycemia among PWH
  - American Diabetes Association (ADA) recommends AGAINST the use of HbA1c to diagnose diabetes in people with HIV on ART



Diabetes Care 2019;42(Suppl. 1):S13–S28

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## Diabetes and HIV

- Lifestyle modifications that include weight loss, increased exercise and dietary modifications
- If treatment needed, select hypoglycemic medications with insulin-sensitizing mechanism of action
- Treat according to ADA guidelines
- No evidence exists that switching ART is beneficial for impaired glucose tolerance




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### Case

- 39 year old African American woman presents with newly diagnosed HIV infection. Tested as per routine by primary care doctor. She has no symptoms of HIV infection.
- CD4 150 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>
- HIV viral load 250,000 copies/mL
- Other labs normal. ART started with Biktarvy (TAF/FTC/BIC)
- At 3 months follow-up visit
  - CD4 = 300 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>
  - HIV viral load < 20 copies/mL

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### Mentimeter

Which of the following will most likely be present at her 3 month visit?

- A. Skin rash
- B. Mild cognitive impairment
- C. Weight gain
- D. Anemia

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**Weight Gain Following Initiation of Antiretroviral Therapy: Risk Factors in Randomized Comparative Clinical Trials**

**Background:** Initiation of antiretroviral therapy (ART) is associated with weight gain. While most of the weight gain has been attributed to increased muscle mass, some weight gain is likely due to increased fat mass. The extent of weight gain varies among individuals and is associated with several risk factors. We conducted a randomized comparative clinical trial of two ART regimens to assess the risk of weight gain in people with HIV. We hypothesized that weight gain would be greater in the group receiving the more potent ART regimen.

**Methods:** We conducted a randomized comparative clinical trial of two ART regimens. The primary endpoint was weight gain at 3 months. Secondary endpoints included changes in body composition, CD4 count, and HIV viral load. We used a 2x2 factorial design to compare two ART regimens: a more potent regimen (Biktarvy) and a less potent regimen (Atripla). The study was conducted in a tertiary care center in a large urban area. We enrolled 100 participants who were newly diagnosed with HIV and had a CD4 count of less than 350 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>. We randomized participants to receive either Biktarvy or Atripla. We followed participants for 3 months. We measured weight, body mass index (BMI), and body composition (fat mass, muscle mass) at baseline and at 3 months. We also measured CD4 count and HIV viral load at baseline and at 3 months. We used a 2x2 factorial design to compare the two regimens. We used a 2x2 factorial design to compare the two regimens. We used a 2x2 factorial design to compare the two regimens.

**Conclusions:** Weight gain is associated with initiation of ART and is a multifactorial process. In patients with HIV, weight gain is associated with initiation of ART and is a multifactorial process. In patients with HIV, weight gain is associated with initiation of ART and is a multifactorial process. In patients with HIV, weight gain is associated with initiation of ART and is a multifactorial process.

**Keywords:** weight gain, antiretroviral therapy, HIV

**Introduction:** Weight gain is a common side effect of antiretroviral therapy (ART) in people with HIV. It is associated with increased mortality and morbidity. The extent of weight gain varies among individuals and is associated with several risk factors. We conducted a randomized comparative clinical trial of two ART regimens to assess the risk of weight gain in people with HIV. We hypothesized that weight gain would be greater in the group receiving the more potent ART regimen.

**Methods:** We conducted a randomized comparative clinical trial of two ART regimens. The primary endpoint was weight gain at 3 months. Secondary endpoints included changes in body composition, CD4 count, and HIV viral load. We used a 2x2 factorial design to compare two ART regimens: a more potent regimen (Biktarvy) and a less potent regimen (Atripla). The study was conducted in a tertiary care center in a large urban area. We enrolled 100 participants who were newly diagnosed with HIV and had a CD4 count of less than 350 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>. We randomized participants to receive either Biktarvy or Atripla. We followed participants for 3 months. We measured weight, body mass index (BMI), and body composition (fat mass, muscle mass) at baseline and at 3 months. We also measured CD4 count and HIV viral load at baseline and at 3 months. We used a 2x2 factorial design to compare the two regimens. We used a 2x2 factorial design to compare the two regimens.

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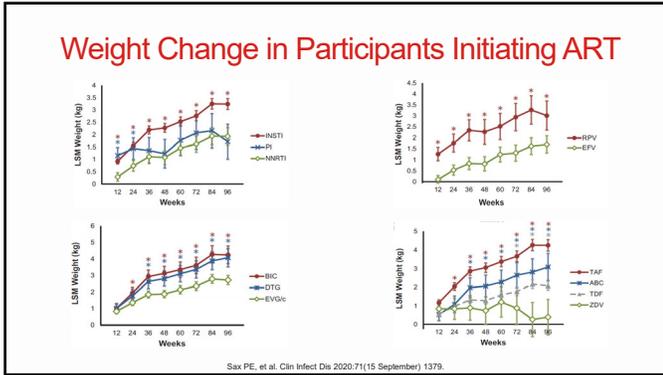
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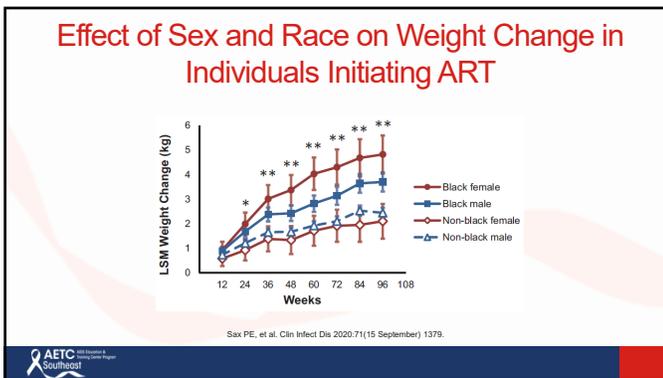
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**Table 3. Risk Factors for Any Weight Gain in Individuals Initiating Antiretroviral Therapy**

Variable	Difference, kg	(95% CI)	PValue
CD4 count (<200 vs ≥200 cells/μL)	2.97	(2.81–3.13)	<.001
IV drug use (no vs yes)	1.41	(.97–1.85)	<.001
Race (black vs non-black)	0.99	(.87–1.11)	<.001
HIV RNA (>100K vs <100K copies/mL)	0.96	(.84–1.08)	<.001
Symptomatic HIV (yes vs no)	0.51	(.36–.65)	<.001
Sex (female vs male)	0.23	(.07–.4)	.006
Age (<50 vs ≥50 y)	0.22	(.07–.37)	.004
BMI			
Obese vs normal	0.21	(.06–.36)	.005
Overweight vs normal	0.24	(.1–.38)	<.001

Sax PE, et al. Weight Gain Following Initiation of Antiretroviral Therapy. Risk Factors in Randomized Comparative Clinical Trials. Clin Infect Dis 2020;71(15 September) 1379.

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## Case

Ruby is a 45 year old African American woman who returns to clinic for follow-up. She was diagnosed with HIV infection 12 years ago when she had PCP pneumonia. Prior history of IV drug use – none since HIV diagnosis. She has a history of hypertension, hepatitis C and hyperlipidemia. ART consisted of Atripla (TDF/FTC/EFV) until 6 months ago when she was noted to have worsening renal function. ART was changed to Biktarvy (TAF/FTC/BIC).

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## HIV and Chronic Kidney Disease

- Risk factors in PWH
  - CD4 < 200 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>
  - Elevated HIV RNA level
  - Black race
  - Older age
  - Female sex
  - Injection drug use
  - Diabetes, hypertension and hepatitis C
  - ART

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## Primary Care Guidance for PWH

- Complete blood count and chemistry panels should be monitored on a regular basis as needed to assess medication toxicity and to monitor potential or existing comorbid conditions (eg. Chronic kidney disease, hepatitis)
- Urinalysis should be monitored annually among those at risk for kidney disease
  - (Biannual testing is recommended for patients receiving tenofovir)

Thompson MA et al. Primary Care Guidance for Persons with HIV: 2020 Update. *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, ciaa1391, <https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciaa1391>  
Published: 6 November 2020.

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### Mentimeter

Which antiretroviral medication(s) is/are associated with adverse kidney effects?

- A. Tenofovir disoproxil fumarate
- B. Atazanavir
- C. Bictegravir
- D. A&B

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### Case

- Robert is a 32 year old white man diagnosed with HIV 1 year ago diagnosed while in treatment for IV methamphetamine addiction.
- Also has chronic hepatitis B & C infection as a result of MSM sexual practices and IV drug use
- His provider started him on Biktarvy and strongly encouraged excellent medication adherence
- However, Robert recently relapsed into IV drug use and stopped his Biktarvy

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### Mentimeter

Which of the following is NOT an expected outcome?

- A. Flare of hepatitis B
- B. Elevation of HIV viral load
- C. Decrease in CD4 count
- D. Improved liver enzymes

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## Regimens for HBV Coinfected Patients

- It is important to use two drugs that are active against hepatitis B in people with HIV infection and HBV coinfection
  - Tenofovir (TAF or TDF)
  - Emtricitabine (FTC) or lamivudine (3TC)
- Poor adherence or lapses in therapy in people with HBV can lead to severe liver disease including failure and death



Slide courtesy of Joanne Urban, Pharm D




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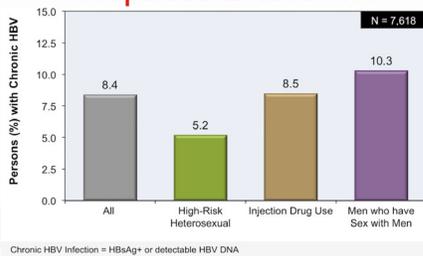
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## Hepatitis B and HIV



National HIV Curriculum, November 2020. Available at <https://www.hiv.uw.edu/go/screening-diagnosis/epidemiology/core-concept/all/hiv-prevalence>. Accessed 11.15.20.

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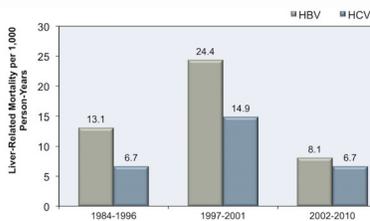
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## Liver Related Mortality in PWH: Comparison Between HCV and HBV



National HIV Curriculum, November 2020. Available at <https://www.hiv.uw.edu/go/screening-diagnosis/epidemiology/core-concept/all/hiv-prevalence>. Accessed 11.15.20.

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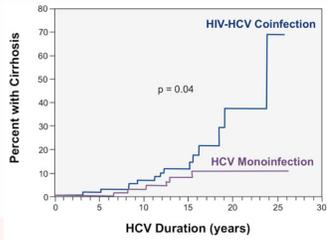
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### Comparison of Progression to Cirrhosis: HIV+HCV or HCV Mono-Infection



Hepatitis C Online. Available at <https://www.hepatitis-c.org/ucp/ucp-key-populations-situations/treatment/hiv-coinfection/core-concept/all>. Accessed 11.19.20

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### Treatment Efficacy: HIV-HCV vs HCV Mono-Infection

Regimen (12 weeks)	SVR Rates with GT 1 HCV-HIV Coinfection and HCV Mono-infection			
	Genotype 1			
	HCV-HIV Coinfection		HCV Mono-infection	
	Study	SVR	Study	SVR
Elbasvir-Grazoprevir	C-EDGE Coinfection	95%	C-EDGE TN	95%
Glecaprevir-Pibrentasvir	EXPEDITION-2	98%	ENDURANCE-1	99%
Ledipasvir-Sofosbuvir	ION-4	96%	ION-1	99%
Sofosbuvir-Velpatasvir	ASTRAL-5	95%	ASTRAL-1	98%

Hepatitis C Online. Available at <https://www.hepatitis-c.org/ucp/ucp-key-populations-situations/treatment/hiv-coinfection/core-concept/all>. Accessed 11.19.20

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### Summary

- Given longer lifespan of PWH, need to evaluate and manage conditions associated with aging as higher risk in those with HIV
  - Cardiovascular disease
  - Renal and hepatic disease
  - Obesity/metabolic syndromes
- Many PWH have modifiable risk factors for co-morbidities
- All members of the care team have an important role in counseling and encouraging behavior changes that promote health




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