



THE BODY PRO

*The Complete HIV/AIDS Resource for Healthcare Professionals*



THE BODY PRO COVERS:

**CROI 2005**

February 22-25, 2005

Read the Latest HIV Research!

This Week: HIV Leadership Awards Announced; Once-Daily Kaletra; and More

May 3, 2005

IN THIS  
NEWSLETTER:

- [HIV Leadership Award Winners Announced](#)
- [HIV Treatment & Patient Care](#)
- [HIV/HAART-Related Complications](#)
- [HIV Treatment Access \(U.S.\)](#)
- [Mental Health & Quality of Life](#)
- [U.S. HIV/STD Epidemiology & Prevention](#)
- [HIV Pathogenesis](#)
- [HIV/AIDS Outside the U.S.](#)

**HIV TREATMENT & PATIENT CARE**

### **The April 2005 HIV JournalView Is Now Available!**

Need a quick fix of the latest HIV research? Check out The Body Pro's newest edition of *HIV JournalView*, authored by Mark Holodniy, M.D. Dr. Holodniy dives into the world's top medical journals for a look at recently published research on HIV disease management, including the use of poly-L-lactic acid for facial wasting, resistance testing, and interactions between antiretrovirals and natural health products. ▶ [Click Here](#)

### **Once-Daily Lopinavir/Ritonavir Approved for Treatment-Naive Patients**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved once-daily dosing for lopinavir/ritonavir (Kaletra) in treatment-naive patients, following a review of data from a pair of clinical trials comparing lopinavir 800 mg/ritonavir 200 mg with the standard twice-daily lopinavir 400 mg/ritonavir 100 mg dose. The once-daily administration has not been approved for treatment-experienced patients, however, due to lower lopinavir trough levels and a dearth of comparative studies involving experienced patients. Once-daily lopinavir/ritonavir is also contraindicated with amprenavir (Agenerase), efavirenz (Sustiva, Stocrin), nelfinavir (Viracept) and nevirapine (Viramune). ▶ [Click Here](#)

### **Survey Shows Large Gap in Perceptions of HIV Treatment Success Between U.S. Physicians, Patients**

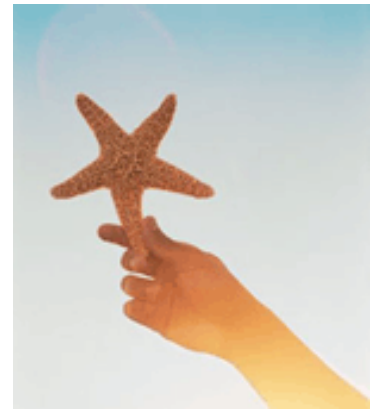
HIV-infected patients who have previously failed at least 2 antiretroviral regimens still have "high standards" for treatment success and need to discuss their treatment goals with their physician(s) in order to find an appropriate drug therapy, according to a survey commissioned by amfAR and presented at amfAR's 17th annual National HIV/AIDS Update Conference. The survey of 150 experienced HIV clinicians and 115 adult patients also found significant disparities in physicians' and patients' perceptions of treatment success and the use of injectable medications. (The survey was supported by the makers of enfuvirtide [T-20, Fuzeon].) ▶ [Click Here](#)

### **Advances in Immune-Based Therapies for HIV**

Suppression of viral replication has long been the primary focus of HIV treatment research. By contrast, a relatively small amount of attention has been devoted to identifying strategies that could enhance CD4+ cell production, and thus preserve or restore immune function in HIV-infected individuals. Researcher Laura A. Napolitano, M.D., explained some of the latest research on this front in a talk she recently gave to the HIV Physicians Research Network, summarized here. Napolitano discussed current understanding of how, in HIV-infected individuals, CD4+ cells are lost and then gained in response to antiretroviral therapy. He also examined potential pharmacologic strategies, such as interleukin-2 treatment, that work by stimulating immune functions. ▶ [Click Here](#)

### **European Treatment Advocates Criticize Design of CCR5 Inhibitor Trial**

The European AIDS Treatment Group has called for a phase 2b/3 clinical trial of the CCR5 inhibitor maraviroc to be redesigned or stopped, charging that the trial unethically puts HIV-infected people at risk of developing AIDS. The group criticized the drug's maker, Pfizer, Inc., for allowing treatment-naive patients to enroll in the trial regardless of their immune status or viral load, because people with severely compromised immune systems who are at risk of developing AIDS and opportunistic infections would receive an untested, investigational drug rather than drugs with proven efficacy. Pfizer counters that



Do you or your patients have unused medications? The Starfish Project at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital collects extra antiretrovirals and other HIV-related medications, which it then ships to healthcare providers in Nigeria. All shipping costs are reimbursed. Visit [www.thestarfishproject.org](http://www.thestarfishproject.org) or call (212) 746-7164 for more information.

such a population must be included in the study for it to fully reflect the range of patients initiating treatment today. The company also insists that patient safety will be appropriately monitored. ▶ [Click Here](#)

▲ [Back to Top](#)

---

## HIV/HAART-RELATED COMPLICATIONS

### **Advanced HIV Increases Likelihood for HPV Reactivation**

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is more likely to be reactivated among HIV-infected women with suppressed immune systems, according to a large study published in the April 20 issue of the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*. Most women in the study had detectable HPV at some point during the study, but later tested negative for the virus. However, women with advanced HIV or AIDS were more likely than women with uncompromised immune systems to have a second outbreak of detectable HPV following a period when the virus was undetectable. The findings suggest that HIV-infected and immunosuppressed women should have regular Pap tests to monitor HPV. ▶

[Click Here](#)

### **Strength Training Tops Steroid Treatment in Small AIDS Wasting Study**

Using exercise --specifically, progressive resistance training -- to treat patients with AIDS-related wasting may be a better bet than using the oral steroid oxandrolone (Oxandrin), according to a recent U.S. study. In the 12-week study of 47 AIDS patients, volunteers were given intensive nutritional intervention and 1) no other treatment, 2) 10 mg of oxandrolone twice a day or 3) progressive resistance training. All 3 methods were found to help somewhat, but resistance training stood out for its ability to significantly improve physical functioning among patients already functionally impaired by wasting. "Given our results and the potential toxicity of oxandrolone, it is difficult to justify the wide use of this agent for HIV wasting," the researchers concluded. ▶

[Click Here](#)

### **PCP Basics, From Diagnosis to Treatment**

*Pneumocystis jiroveci* pneumonia, better known as PCP (and formerly known as *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia), is one of the most common opportunistic infections in HIV-infected patients. PCP incidence has significantly decreased in the age of HAART -- at least in places where people have access to treatment -- but it still remains a health concern, especially among patients with a low CD4+ cell count. In fact, PCP is still the single most common life-threatening opportunistic infection for HIV-infected patients in the United States. In this detailed clinical overview, Gifford S. Leoung, M.D., explains the common symptoms, preventive methods, diagnostic procedures and treatment strategies for this increasingly uncommon, but nonetheless dangerous, disease. ▶ [Click Here](#)

▲ [Back to Top](#)

---

## U.S. HIV TREATMENT ACCESS

## **Annual ADAP Report Provides Mixed News on HIV Treatment Access for Low-Income Patients**

About 136,000 HIV-infected patients in the United States receive treatment via AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAPs), but 627 patients in 11 states were on ADAP waiting lists as of March 2005, and another 10 states have limited drug coverage or implemented other cost-cutting measures, according to an annual ADAP report prepared by the Kaiser Family Foundation and the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors. Although ADAP budgets rose 11% in fiscal year 2004, which allowed 38 states to provide treatment to more HIV-infected patients, Jennifer Kates, a vice president and director of HIV policy at the Kaiser Family Foundation, says that "the growing number of people who need HIV medications and rising drug costs continue to exceed available resources." ▶ [Click Here](#)

To download the full ADAP monitoring report, a 94-page PDF, [click here](#).

## **HIV-Infected Black Women Least Likely to Receive Medical Care**

An 18-month, federally funded study of HIV-infected black women living in Palm Beach County, Fla., finds that 40% -- approximately 800 women -- are not receiving medical care, primarily due to fear, stigma, socioeconomic factors and disease misconceptions. Black women comprise 75% of all newly infected women in the county; many are farm workers and immigrants outside of the healthcare system. These findings precipitated a 2-day workshop in West Palm Beach focused on overcoming the barriers to medical care faced by these women. ▶ [Click Here](#)

▲ [Back to Top](#)

---

## **MENTAL HEALTH & QUALITY OF LIFE**

### **A New Treatment for HIV-Infected Drug Users (PDF)**

Injection drug use accounts for approximately 10,000 new HIV infections annually in the United States. In the fight to curb this trend, the opiate partial agonist buprenorphine is gaining traction as a substance abuse treatment for this population. Research shows that buprenorphine is a safer alternative to methadone, a tightly regulated drug that carries a higher overdose risk than buprenorphine. A workshop for HIV healthcare providers last June discussed the use of buprenorphine in primary HIV care, including implementation barriers and how to overcome them; this report from the Forum for Collaborative HIV Research reviews the workshop's discussions. ▶ [Click Here](#)

### **Risk of Emotional Distress for Children of HIV-Infected Parents Begins Before Parents Die**

A 6-year study of 272 New York City families with an HIV-infected parent found that teenage children were at greater risk of emotional distress and crime-related problems *before* -- not after -- the parent's death. According to researchers at the University of California-Los Angeles, teen depression and delinquent behavior waned in the year after a parent's death, and teen distress was ultimately no greater than that of peers whose parents were still alive. The study's results illustrate "the importance of helping families after HIV diagnosis,

not just after a parent's death," said lead author Mary Jane Rotheram-Borus. ▶ [Click Here](#)

### **WHO Director Urges More Attention to Nutrition for HIV-Infected People**

Greater attention needs to be paid to the nutrition problems faced by HIV-infected patients, particularly in developing nations, said World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Jong-Wook Lee at the start of a 3-day conference in Durban, South Africa, aimed at developing strategies to improve the health of HIV-infected people. "We do know that sound nutrition helps maintain the immune system, increase body weight and boosts energy levels," Lee said in a speech at the conference. He also pointed out that the benefits of investing in antiretroviral drug programs could be jeopardized if people receiving treatment are not properly nourished. ▶ [Click Here](#)

▲ [Back to Top](#)

---

## **U.S. HIV EPIDEMIOLOGY & PREVENTION**

### **Minnesota Reports 11% Rise in HIV Incidence**

Minnesota recorded 307 new HIV cases in 2004 -- an 11% increase over the 266 infections reported in 2003, according to the state's Health Department. Infections among black and Hispanic populations were 10 and 7 times greater, respectively, than among whites. Furthermore, these racial groups were typically diagnosed at a later stage of infection than whites, with 59% of Hispanics and 46% of African-born residents having already progressed to AIDS when their HIV infection was diagnosed. Gay and bisexual men represent 50% of all diagnoses in the past 3 years, despite accounting for only 5% of the population in Minnesota. ▶ [Click Here](#)

### **Sexual Dysfunction May Increase Risky Sex Among HIV-Infected Gay Men, Survey Suggests**

"Untreated sexual dysfunctions may contribute to sexual risk-taking and therefore HIV clinics need to address both issues," according to British researchers who conducted a survey of HIV-infected, homosexual, male clinic patients. Of the 78 survey volunteers, 69% reported one or more sexual problems, and 51% reported erectile dysfunction (ED) in the context of trying to use condoms. Ninety percent of the 37 men whose ED was associated with condom use reported inconsistent condom use during insertive sex versus 28% of men not reporting condom-related ED, and 62% of the former group had receptive anal sex in the past 3 months compared with 38% of men in the latter group. ▶ [Click Here](#)

### **California Educating Migrant Farm Workers About Risky Behaviors and HIV**

Research shows that high-risk behavior is relatively common among California's estimated 1.3 million migrant farm workers, even though the incidence of HIV remains low. However, recent trends suggest that the spread of HIV may be on the rise in this population. To prevent an HIV epidemic among migrant workers, the Universitywide AIDS Research Program at the University of California is collaborating with healthcare clinics and the California state and Mexican governments to educate migrants about the spread of HIV

through high-risk behaviors. If California fails to promote preventive measures among this population, "We could face a marked increase in HIV transmission, and we will all pay for it later," says George Lemp, director of the program. ▶

[Click Here](#)

### **Recent Studies Examine Causes Behind Crystal Meth Use and Sex Risks**

The recent spike in crystal methamphetamine use and the resulting spread of HIV among men who have sex with men (MSM) has left many of us wondering what factors are driving this high-risk behavior and what can be done about it. Bob Huff of the Gay Men's Health Crisis provides a straightforward synopsis of some studies on substance use and sexual risk behavior among MSM. Could these studies help provide HIV prevention workers with insights into what motivates this diverse population of individuals to engage in such a dangerous mix of HIV risk factors? ▶ [Click Here](#)

### **FDA Criticized for Failure to Publicize Nonoxynol-9 Warnings**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)'s failure to update the labels of products containing the spermicide nonoxynol-9 to warn of the increased risk of contracting HIV among women who use the products jeopardizes consumer health, according to a recent Government Accountability Office report. The report, prepared at the request of senior Republican senator Tom Coburn, criticizes the FDA for not publicizing scientific evidence and information showing that nonoxynol-9 does not protect against HIV and might actually increase a person's risk of contracting the virus. ▶ [Click Here](#)

▲ [Back to Top](#)

---

## **HIV PATHOGENESIS**

### **APOBEC3G Enzyme Tied to CD4+ Cell Vulnerability During Immune Activation**

Resting CD4+ cells have a powerful protein shield that normally protects them from being invaded by HIV, but the cells lose that protection when they are activated to fight an infection, according to a paper published in the April 13 online edition of *Nature*. The study, conducted by University of California-San Francisco researchers and presented in February at the 12th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections, found that the enzyme APOBEC3G, which composes the protein shield, becomes a large molecule when CD4+ cells are activated; as a result, the shield becomes porous, allowing HIV to enter the cell. ▶ [Click Here](#)

▲ [Back to Top](#)

---

## **HIV/AIDS OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES**

### **Understanding the Interplay Between Malaria and HIV**

Given what is known about the human immune response to malaria and HIV, researchers surmise that either infection might influence the clinical course of the other in coinfecting individuals. In this chapter from HIV InSite's online textbook of HIV disease, James Whitworth, M.D., reviews the association between malaria and HIV, characterizes treatment responses in coinfecting individuals and discusses implications for public and clinical health. ▶ [Click Here](#)

### **Institute of Medicine Calls for Global Health Service Corps to Provide Emergency AIDS Relief**

A U.S.-funded corps of healthcare professionals should be mobilized to provide care in the 15 countries highly affected by HIV that fall under the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), according to a report recently released by the Institute of Medicine. The report recommends the creation of a 150-member Global Health Service Corps that would be dispersed throughout the PEPFAR countries to train healthcare workers and help develop national treatment programs over a 3-year time span. An additional 1,000 U.S. healthcare workers could be commissioned under the plan to provide assistance in resource-limited regions. The plan's estimated cost is up to US\$140 million annually. ▶ [Click Here](#)

To download the full Institute of Medicine report, [click here](#).

▲ [Back to Top](#)

---

Want to subscribe a friend or colleague? E-mail us at: [news@thebodypro.com](mailto:news@thebodypro.com)