**HPTN 084 (LIFE – Long-acting Injectable For the Epidemic)**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

## 1. What is HPTN 084 (LIFE - Long-acting Injectable For the Epidemic)?

HPTN 084 (LIFE) is the first study to test if an injection of cabotegravir (CAB) given once every two months works better than a Truvada pill taken every day for HIV prevention in women.

## 2. When and where will this study be done?

The study will take place in Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland, Uganda and Zimbabwe. HPTN 084 (LIFE) is expected to start in late 2017.

## 3. What organizations are involved in this study?

The HPTN 084 (LIFE) study is jointly funded by the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, part of the U. S. National Institutes of Health, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and ViiV Healthcare. Study drugs are provided by ViiV Healthcare and Gilead Sciences, Inc.

## 4. Why is this study being done?

Women in sub-Saharan Africa are at risk for HIV and new effective methods of HIV prevention are needed. A Truvada pill taken every day containing two drugs, TDF and FTC (TDF/FTC), is currently recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) for use as PrEP (the use of medication to prevent infection) for people at risk for HIV infection. Several countries have approved TDF/FTC for use as PrEP.

Taking a daily pill for PrEP could be an effective tool for preventing HIV, but remembering to take a pill every day can be hard for some people. Newer, safer products that do not need to be taken every day are needed for people who may not want to take a daily pill or who may find it difficult to take a pill every day. As with contraception (birth control), we believe that more prevention options may lead to better use of HIV prevention products by people at risk for HIV infection. If shown to work and be safe, PrEP given as an injection has the potential to prevent HIV without having to take a daily pill. An injection will be discrete and may protect the privacy of the person receiving the medication.

## 5. How many people will be in this study and who can join?

The study will enroll about 3,200 women who are HIV uninfected. Women who join the study must be 18-45 years old.

## 6. What will happen during the study?

Women who enroll in the study will be assigned at random (like flipping a coin) to either Group A or Group B. Each woman in each group will get an injection in the buttock every two months and a daily pill.

Women in both groups will get the same number of pills and the same number of injections. Group A will get cabotegravir (CAB) pills and CAB injections plus placebo Truvada pills (pills that look like Truvada pills, but have no active drug). Group B will get Truvada pills and placebo CAB pills (pills that look like CAB pills, but have no active drug) and placebo CAB injections (injections that look like CAB injections, but have no active drug). Both groups go through three steps in the study and *some participants could be in the study for up to 4.5 years*.

- Group A: This group gets CAB pills and CAB injections plus Truvada placebo pills.
    - Step 1: CAB pill plus a placebo Truvada pill every day for five weeks
    - Step 2: One singular CAB injection initially, then another injection a month later, and then every two months after that up to three and half years plus a Truvada placebo pill every day
    - Step 3: Truvada pill every day for about a year, then referred to local HIV prevention services, which may include PrEP.
- Group B: This group gets Truvada pills plus placebo CAB pills and placebo CAB injections.
    - Step 1: Truvada pill plus a placebo CAB pill every day for five weeks
    - Step 2: Truvada pill every day plus one singular placebo CAB injection initially, then another placebo injection a month later, and then every two months after that up to three and a half years
    - Step 3: Truvada pill every day for about a year, then referred to local HIV prevention services, which may include PrEP.

### 7. Will injectable cabotegravir be tested for HIV prevention in men also?

Yes. A study known as HPTN 083 is testing cabotegravir for HIV prevention in cisgender (identifies with their sex at birth) men who have sex with men and transgender (does not identify with their sex at birth) women who have sex with men. HPTN 083 is taking place in Argentina, Brazil, Peru, South Africa, Thailand, United States and Vietnam.

### 8. Is injectable cabotegravir safe?

Studies so far in HIV-infected (treatment studies) and HIV-uninfected (prevention studies) people have shown injections of cabotegravir (CAB) to be safe and acceptable. Some studies, including HPTN 077, are still ongoing and safety is continuing to be reviewed. The most common side effects in HPTN 077 are headache and injection site reaction. Safety will continue to be looked at in HPTN 083 and 084.

### 9. Can injectable cabotegravir protect participants from getting infected with HIV?

We do not know if cabotegravir (CAB) given as an injection can protect people from getting HIV. Based on data from other studies, we think that CAB given as an injection may work for preventing HIV. We are conducting HPTN 083 and HPTN 084 to find out if CAB given as an injection works for preventing HIV infection.

### 10. What HIV preventive care will study participants receive?

Study participants will be offered condoms, treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and HIV risk reduction counselling.

### 11. How will participants be supported to take their study medication?

Study participants will receive support from clinic staff at each visit. Staff will discuss with the study participant why it might be easy or difficult for them to take a pill every day and/or attend study visits.

### 12. When will HPTN 084 begin and when are results expected?

HPTN 084 is expected to begin near the end of 2017. The study will last about four and a half years, with participants active in the study between one and a half and three and a half years. Results are expected in 2023.

### 13. How is HPTN ensuring the safety of HPTN 084 study participants?

Multiple people and groups will carefully look at the safety of women in HPTN 084. This study has been reviewed by regulatory authorities and research ethics committees in the U.S. and in each of the countries where the study will be conducted. The study investigators will review safety including side effects regularly. In addition, a Clinical Management Committee will help principal investigators if unexpected safety concerns arise.

An independent (has no other involvement in the study) Data and Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) will conduct reviews of participants' safety. A DSMB is composed of clinical research experts, statisticians, ethicists, and community representatives who meet periodically during a study to review safety and efficacy data as it is gathered. A statistician who is not part of the study team presents mid-study data to the DSMB. The DSMB will tell the study team if there are new safety concerns for study participants, if there is a sign that the study is working, or if the study cannot answer one of the questions it was made to answer. If it is thought to be needed by the DSMB, the DSMB can advise that the study be ended early. Regular safety reports will also be given to regulatory and research ethics committees in each country to ensure participant safety.

### 14. What will happen to study participants who become infected with HIV during the trial?

Study participants who become infected with HIV during the study will stop receiving study drugs and will be referred to local medical providers for HIV care and treatment.

### 15. Where can I find more information?

More information can be found at www.hptn.org/research/studies/hptn084