

Decrease Herpes Simplex Virus Type 2 (HSV-2) Transmission from HSV-2/HIV-1 Coinfected Persons: A Randomized Controlled Trial.

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Abstract

Background. Daily suppressive therapy with valacyclovir reduces risk of sexual transmission of herpes simplex virus type 2 (HSV-2) in HSV-2-serodiscordant heterosexual couples by 48%. Whether suppressive therapy reduces HSV-2 transmission from persons coinfecting with HSV-2 and human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) is unknown. Within a randomized trial of daily acyclovir 400 mg twice daily

Methods. in African HIV-1 serodiscordant couples, in which the HIV-1-infected partner was HSV-2 seropositive, we identified partnerships in which HIV-1-susceptible partners were HSV-2 seronegative to estimate the effect of acyclovir on risk of HSV-2 transmission. Results. assigned 911 HSV-2/HIV-1-serodiscordant couples to daily receipt of acyclovir or placebo. We observed 68 HSV-2 seroconversions, 40 and 28 in acyclovir and placebo groups, respectively (HSV-2 incidence, 5.1 cases per 100 person-years; hazard ratio [HR], 1.35 [95% confidence interval, .83-2.20]; $P = .22$). Among HSV-2-susceptible women, vaginal drying practices (adjusted HR, 44.35; $P = .004$) and unprotected sex (adjusted HR, 9.91; $P = .002$) were significant risk factors for HSV-2 acquisition; having more children was protective (adjusted HR, 0.47 per additional child; $P = .012$). Among HSV-2-susceptible men, only age ≥ 30 years was associated with increased risk of HSV-2 acquisition ($P = .016$). Treatment of African HSV-2/HIV-1-infected persons with

Conclusions. daily suppressive acyclovir did not decrease risk of HSV-2 transmission to susceptible partners. More-effective prevention strategies to reduce HSV-2 transmission from HIV-1-infected persons are needed.