

XII Workshop Nazionale

INNOVAZIONE E RICERCA PER LA PRATICA CLINICA

TERAPIA E PREVENZIONE DELL' INFEZIONE DA HIV E MICRORGANISMI EMERGENTI

9-10 Giugno 2021

VIRTUAL EDITION

A che punto è la vaccinazione contro HIV

Antonella Castagna



Disclosures

I have received funding for Advisory Boards, Speaker Panels and for preparation of educational materials from the following:

Gilead Sciences

ViiV Healthcare

Janssen-Cilag

Merck Sharp & Dohme

Theratechnologies



FACT SHEET 2021

Preliminary UNAIDS 2021 epidemiological estimates

GLOBAL HIV STATISTICS

37.6 million [30.2 million–45.0 million] people globally were living with HIV in 2020.

1.5 million [1.1 million–2.1 million] people became newly infected with HIV in 2020.

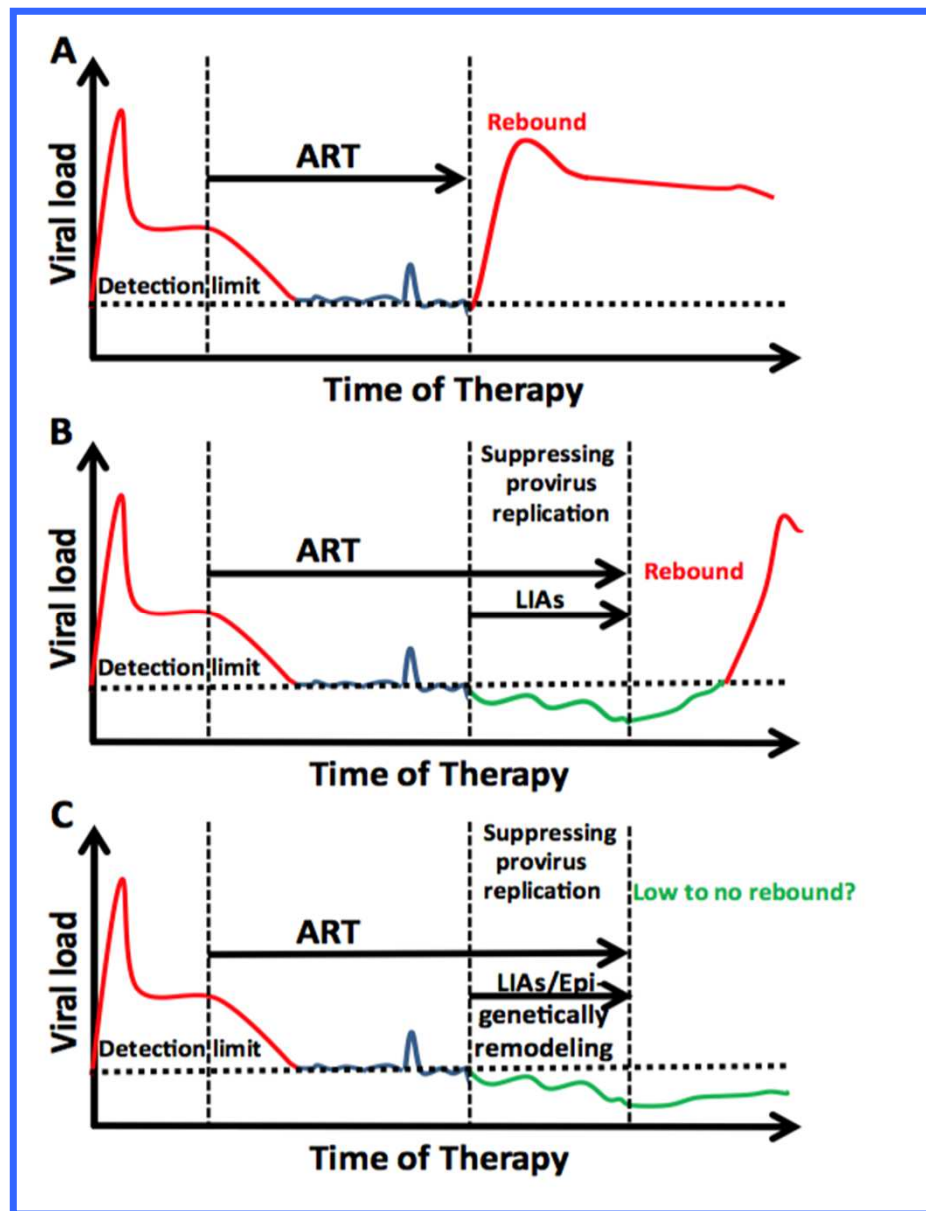
690 000 [480 000–1 million] people died from AIDS-related illnesses in 2020.

27.4 million [26.5 million–27.7 million] people were accessing antiretroviral therapy in 2020.

77.5 million [54.6 million–110 million] people have become infected with HIV since the start of the epidemic.

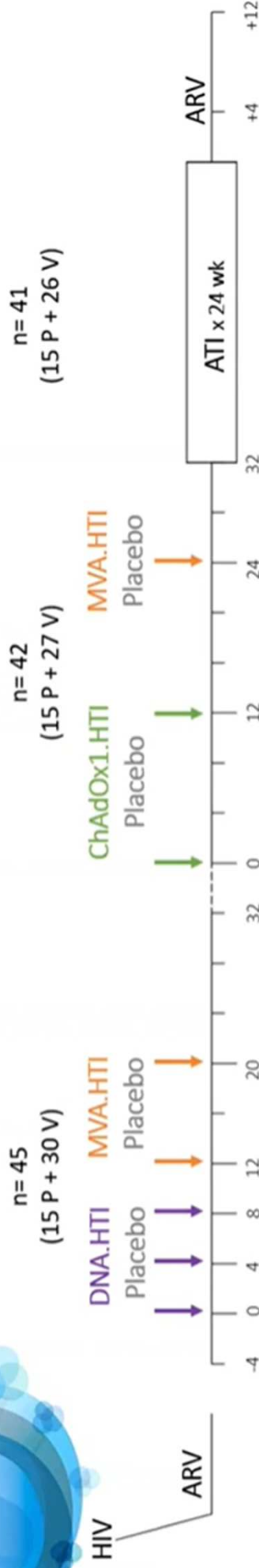
34.7 million [26.0 million–45.8 million] people have died from AIDS-related illnesses since the start of the epidemic.

Strategy to induce silencing of latent HIV reservoirs





AELIX-002 Study Design



MAIN INCLUSION/EXCLUSION criteria

- Early-ART with 3-drug regimen <6 months after documented HIV acquisition
- Virological >1y pVL undetectable
- Immunological CD4 count >400 cells/mm³ for 6m Nadir >200 cells/mm³

ART RESUMPTION CRITERIA DURING ATI

- Clinical ARS
- Virological pVL of HIV-1 RNA >100,000 copies/mL pVL of HIV-1 RNA > 10,000 copies/mL for 8 weeks
- Immunological CD4 count <350 cells/mm³ for 2 consecutive determinations



Demographics

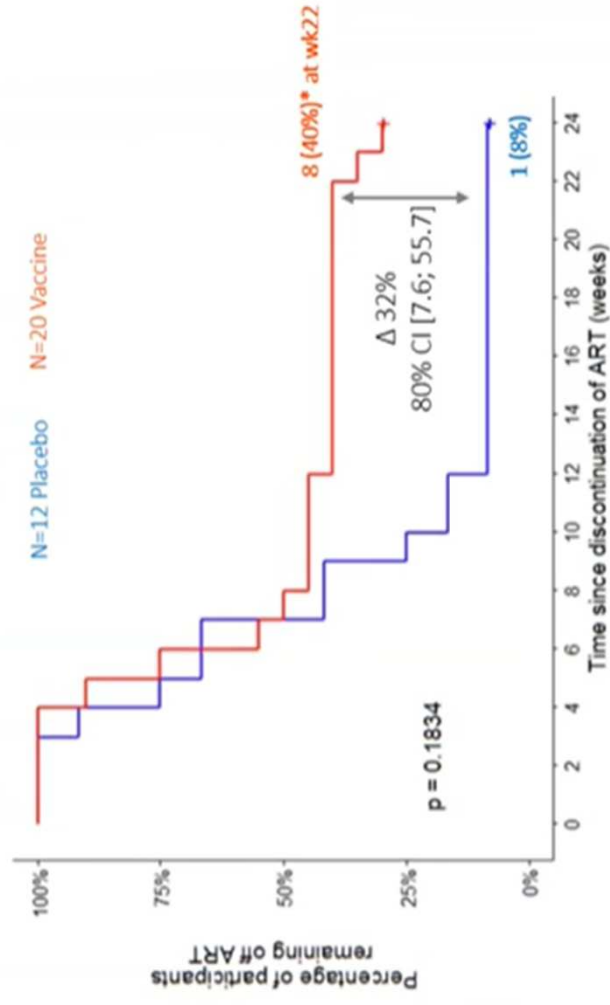
Demographics	Placebo n=15	Vaccine n=30
Age, years	34 (20 - 51)	37 (23 - 57)
Male gender, n (%)	15 (100%)	29 (96.7%)
Time from estimated HIV acquisition to ART initiation (days)	55 (12 - 125)	64 (6 - 140)
Feibig stage at ART initiation, n (%)		
I	1 (6.7%)	1 (3.3%)
II	0 (0%)	2 (6.7%)
III	2 (13.3%)	0 (0%)
IV	0 (0%)	2 (6.7%)
V	5 (33.3%)	19 (63.3%)
VI	7 (46.7%)	6 (20%)
pVL at ART initiation, log ₁₀ copies/mL	4.9 (3.7 - 7)	4.7 (2.9 - 7)
Time with undetectable pVL (months)	18 (13 - 56)	27 (12 - 55)
Absolute CD4 (cells/mm ³)	826 (549 - 2156)	727 (553 - 1333)
CD4/CD8 ratio	1.1 (0.5 - 2.66)	0.99 (0.5 - 3.3)
Any Beneficial HLA class I alleles (B2705, B5701, B1517, B1503)	3 (20%)	7 (23.3%)

Data expressed as median (range) except when noted



Higher Proportion of Vaccinees off ART

Participants Without Beneficial HLA class I alleles



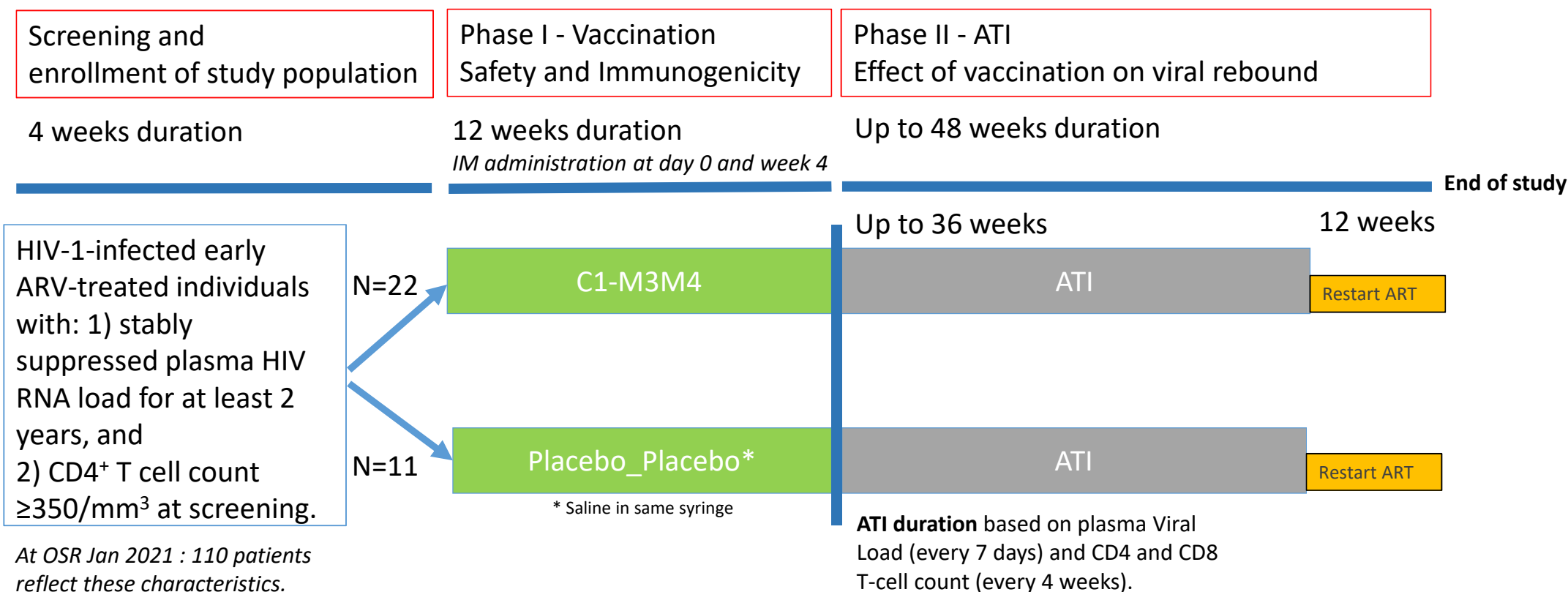
* 2 last vaccinees dropped out due to COVID-19 without meeting pre-specified ART resumption criteria

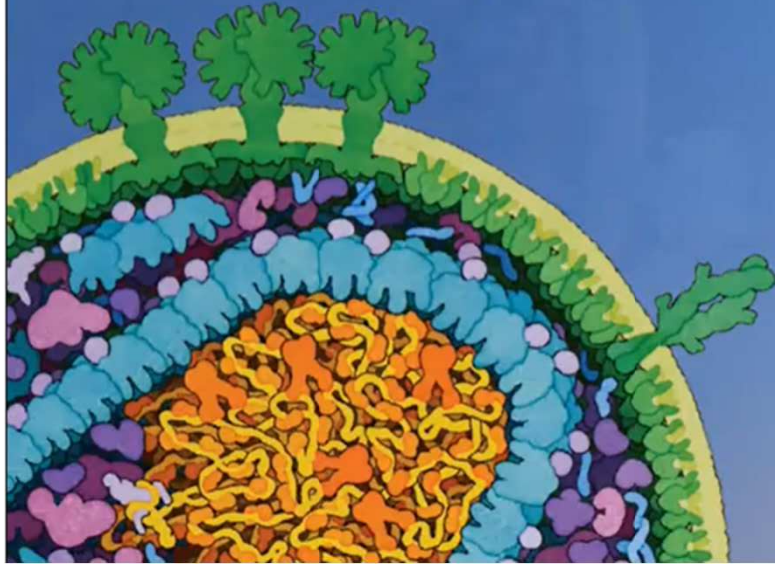


HIV-CORE 007 _ Study Schema



Phase I : Randomized, placebo-controlled, single-blind, proof-of-concept study on vaccination with C1-M3M4
Phase II : Open-label, proof-of-concept study with an Analytical Treatment Interruption (ATI)





ORAL ABSTRACT

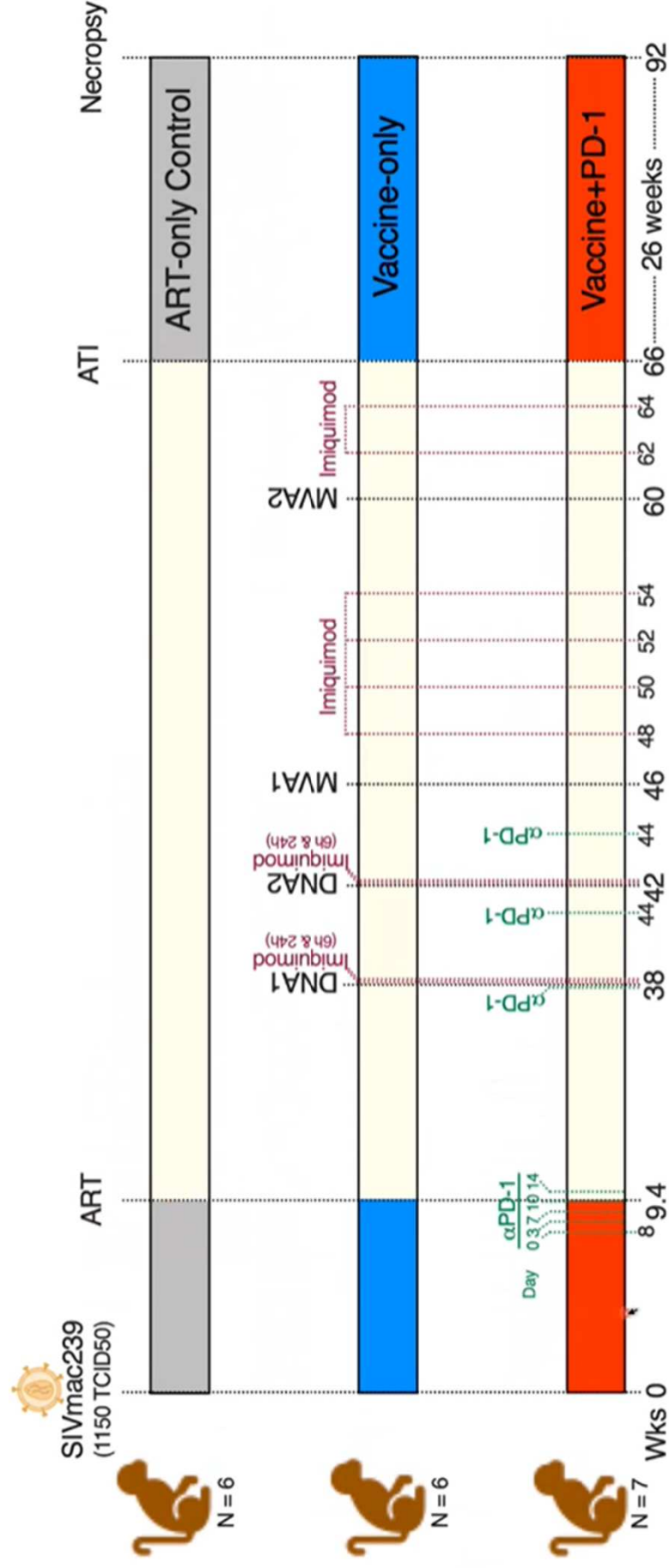
PD-1 Immune Checkpoint Blockade Enhances Vaccine Potential in a Chronic SIV/Macaque Model

Sheikh Abdul Rahman

Yerkes National Primate Research Center – Emory University
Atlanta, GA / USA

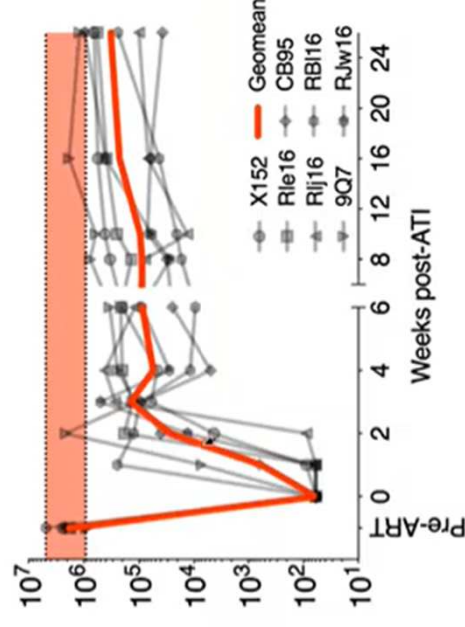
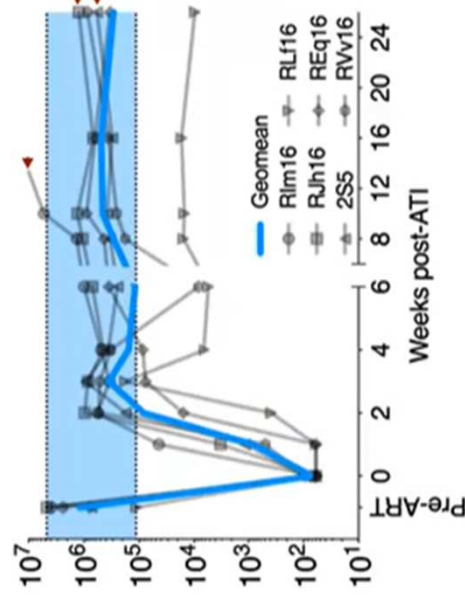
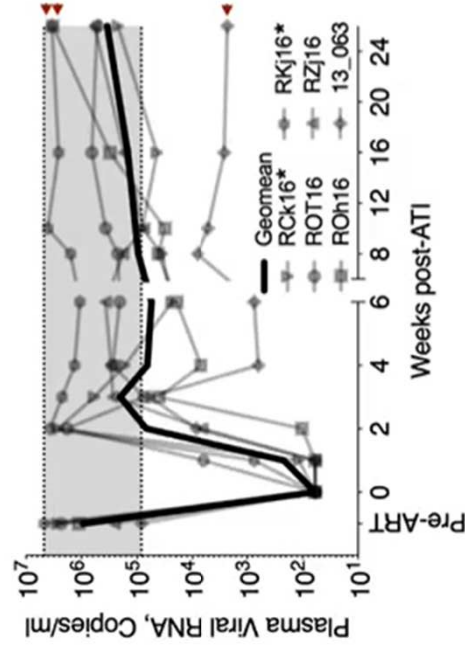
Disclosure: None

Study Design



SIV Rebounded in All Three Groups

Vaccine combined with PD-1 blockade showed better control



Conclusion

- CD40L+TLR7 agonist adjuvanted DNA/MVA vaccine induced broad and potent anti-viral CD8 T cells under ART with enhanced their localization to lymphoid tissue.
- Combining therapeutic vaccine with PD-1 blockade significantly preserved these responses after ART interruption.
- Vaccination with PD-1 blockade significantly reduced SIV reservoirs in lymph node.
- There was no delay in viral rebound post ART interruption. However, Vaccine+PD-1 combination showed significantly better and persistent control of rebounding viremia overtime in these chronically infected macaques.
- Viral suppression strongly associated with several CD8 T cell functional quality indicating viral control was mediated by potent and broad anti-viral CD8 T cells.



ORAL ABSTRACT

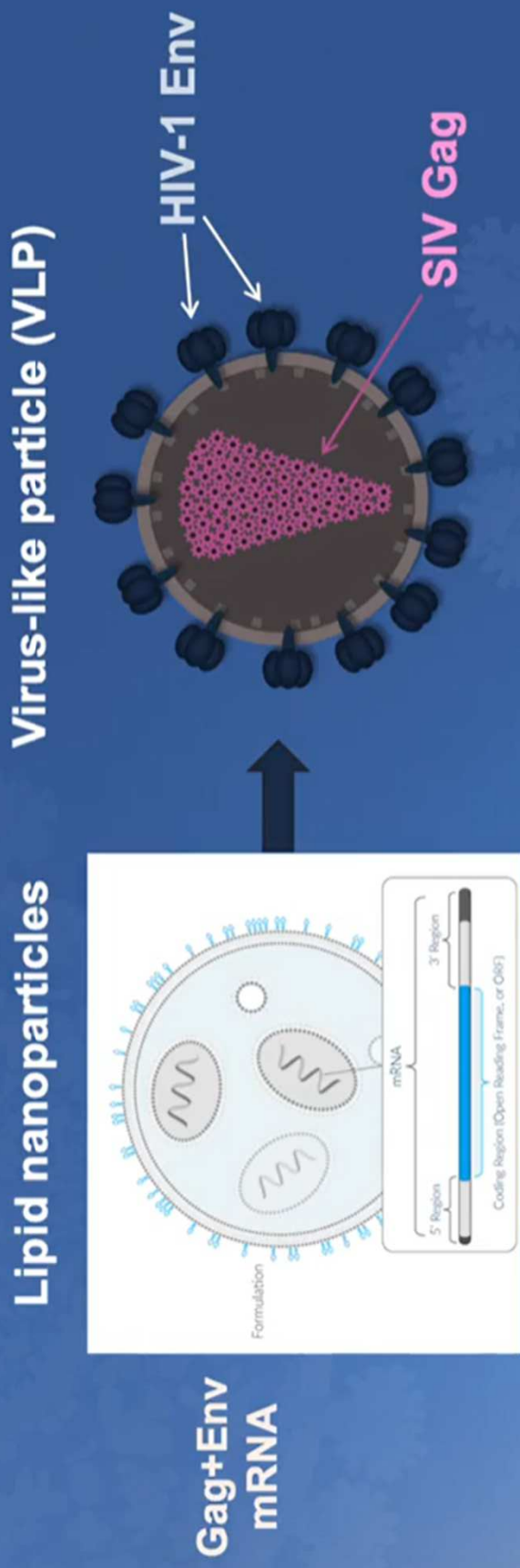
An Env-Gag mRNA vaccine protects macaques from heterologous tier-2 SHIV infection

Peng ZHANG Ph.D.

Laboratory of Immunoregulation,
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland, USA

Disclosure: None

Coformulation of Gag + Env mRNA Induces the Production of Extracellular Virus-like Particles (VLP)



Design of the Study

Animals:

Rhesus macaques (*M. mulatta*), juvenile males

Immunogens:

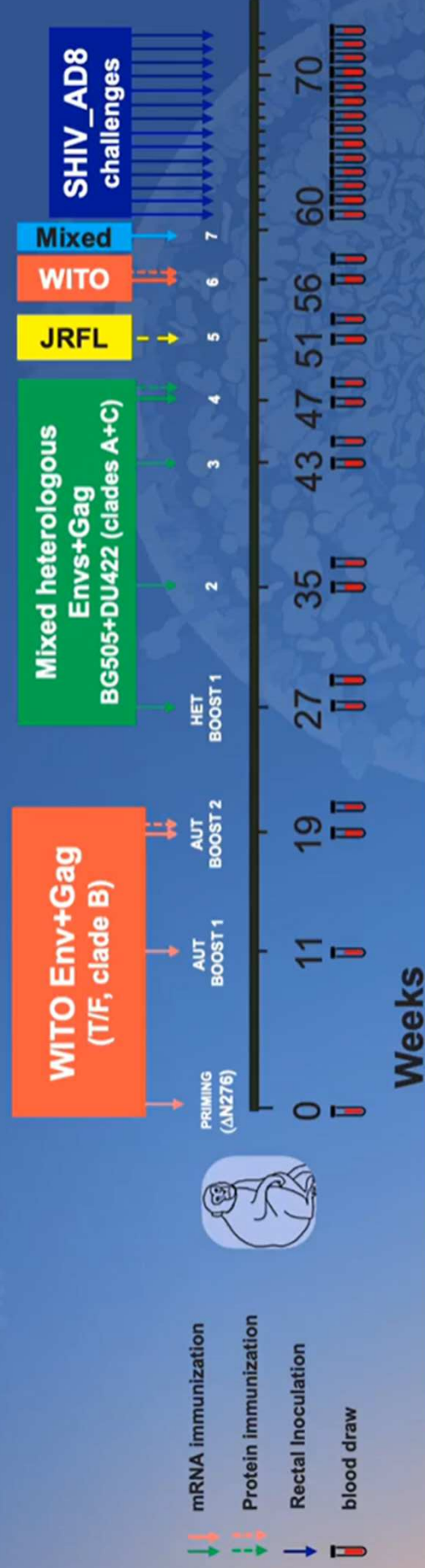
mRNA (HIV-1 Env, SIV Gag), 200-400 µg/animal by IM injection

Study groups:

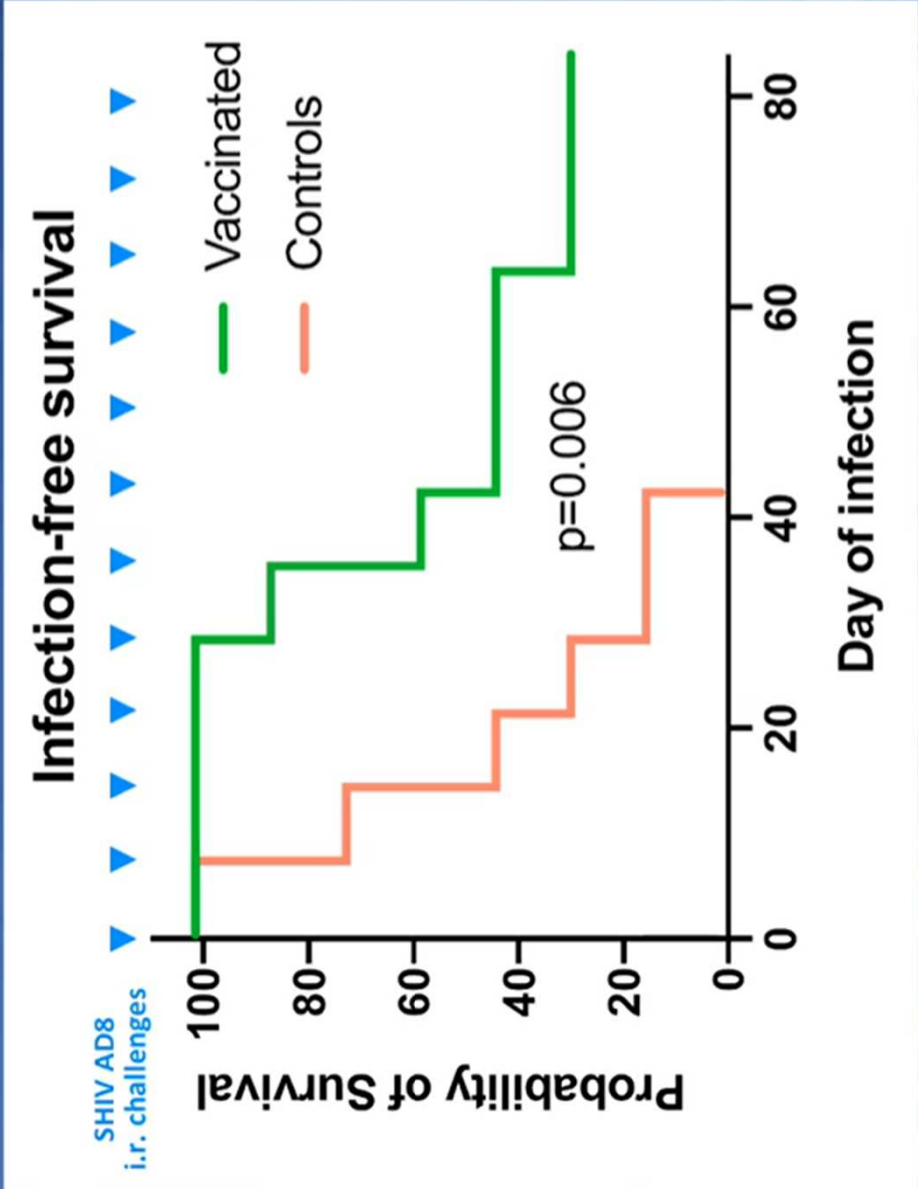
- **Arm 1 (n=3):** Clade-B priming (WITO Env+Gag), clades A+C boosts (BG505+DU422+Gag) + final protein boosts (SOSIP.664 trimers)
- **Arm 2 (n=4):** Clade-B priming (WITO+Gag), clades A+C boosts (BG505+DU422+Gag)
- **Arm 3 (n=7):** Naïve controls (added at challenge phase)

Challenge:

In vivo-titrated SHIV-AD8, 13 weekly low-dose 10 TCID₅₀ by rectal inoculation



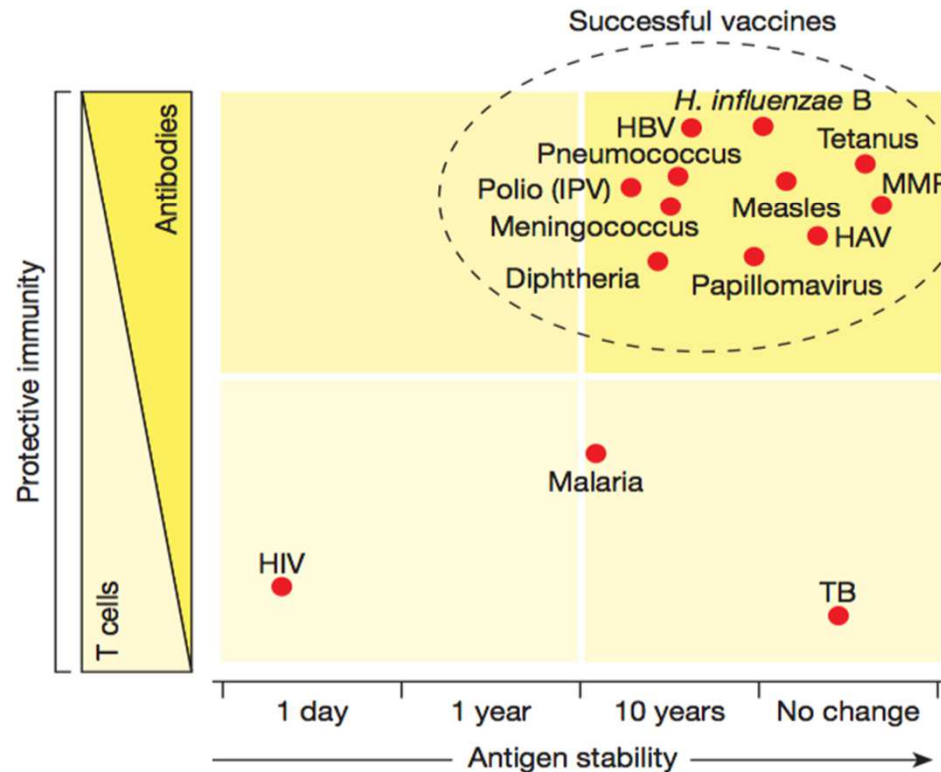
Protection from Tier-2 SHIV (AD8) 10 TCID50 repeated challenges in mRNA-Immunized Macaques



	Hazard ratio	HR 95% CI		Per-exposure risk reduction	PERR 95% CI	
		lower	upper		lower	upper
All vaccinated vs. Control	0.15	0.03	0.78	85%	22%	97%
mRNA+ Protein vs. Controls	0.12	0.01	1.07	88%	1%	99%
mRNA only vs. Controls	0.24	0.04	1.31	76%	1%	96%

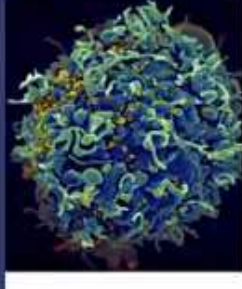
Challenging infectious diseases

Historically successful vaccines have been developed mostly against those pathogens that can be treated by antibodies and have a stable antigen repertoire (Box 1 Figure). HIV, malaria and tuberculosis vaccines do not fall within the cluster of successful vaccines in the graph, because of antigenic variability and the requirement of T-cell immunity for protection. Developing vaccines against these pathogens requires novel approaches.



Rappuoli R, Nature 2011

Why has HIV vaccine development been so challenging?



Genetic diversity of virus greater than any other pathogen

- Envelope less immunogenic than other viruses (perhaps due to glycan shield)¹
- The gp160 envelope trimeric structure is unique, hard to simulate and has fewer trimers on the surface²



No natural immunity to HIV infection and no human challenge model^{3,4} (latency, no cure)



Imperfect animal model – different virus (SIV/SHIV)⁴

- Expensive, non-predictive of vaccine efficacy



Limited return on investment to develop vaccines⁵

- Innovation comes from the public sector, less so from private sector
- Reluctance to do expensive efficacy trials of candidate vaccines
- Need for expanded capacity to manufacture complicated vaccine products



Vaccine development is slow⁶

SIV, Simian immunodeficiency virus; SHIV, simian-human immunodeficiency virus

1. Klasse PJ, et al. Cell Host Microbe. 2020;27:507-518.
2. Ward AB and Wilson JA. Trends Biochem Sci. 2015; 40: 101–107.
3. Elisei MM, et al. EBioMedicine. 2019; 45: 624–629.
4. Sui Y, et al. Curr Protoc Immunol. 2013; 102: 12.14 1–12.14.30.
5. Serdobova I and Kleny M. Am J Public Health. 2006 September; 96(9): 1554–1559.
6. Struck MM. Nat Biotechnol. 1996; 14:591–593.

VRC01 Efficacy in Preventing HIV Infection:

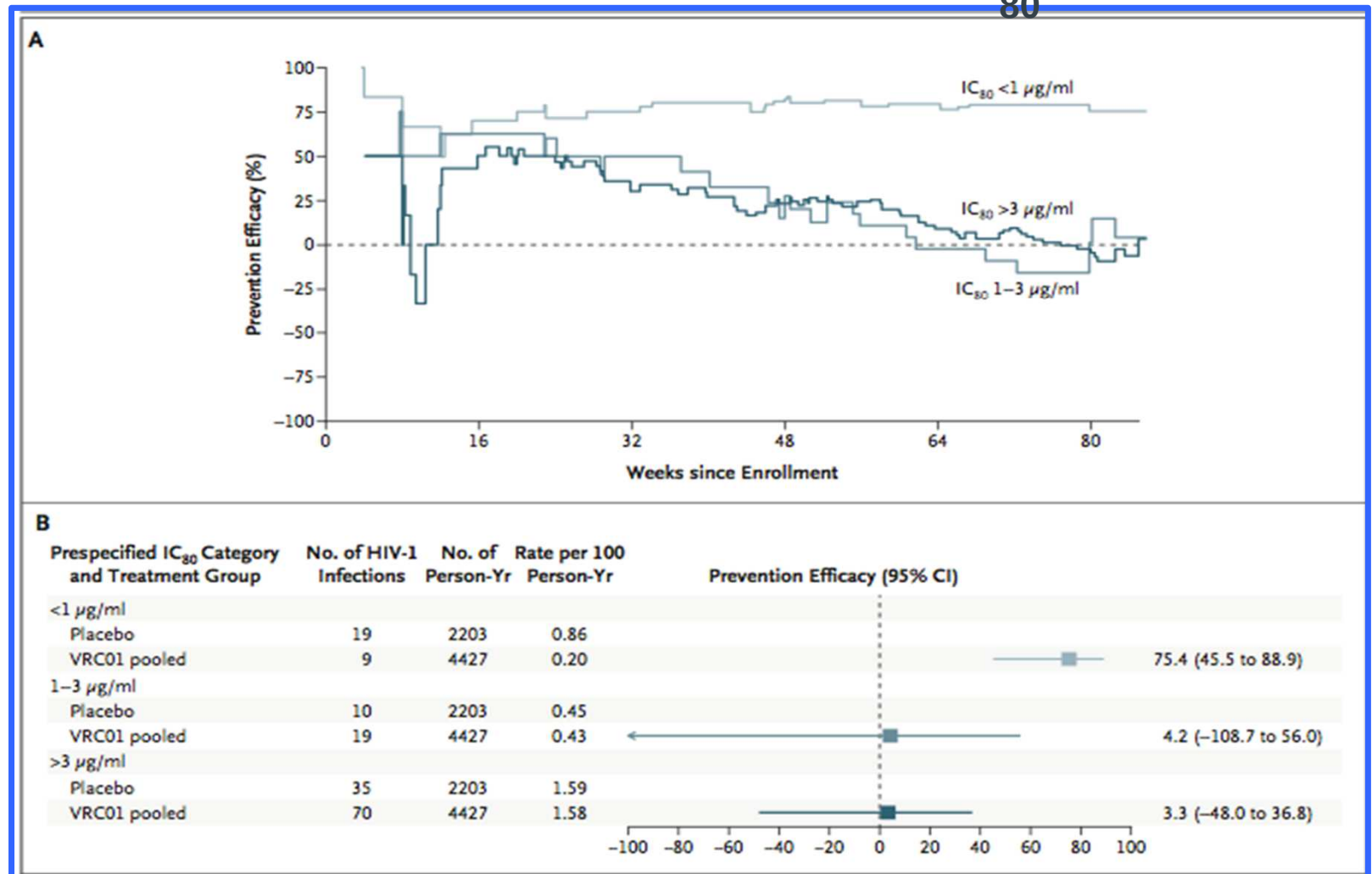
AMP Study Design

- 2 double-blind, placebo-controlled, proof-of-concept phase IIb trials of broadly neutralizing antibody VRC01 in preventing HIV infection
 - HVTN 703/HPTN 081: N = 1924 cisgender women in sub-Saharan Africa
 - HVTN 704/HPTN 085: N = 2699 MSM and TG persons who have sex with men in Americas/Europe
- Patients randomized to VRC01 10 mg/kg vs 30 mg/kg vs placebo control Q8W for 10 infusions
 - Efficacy tracked through Wk 80
 - Safety/tolerability tracked through Wk 104

Participants, n	VRC01 10 mg/kg	VRC01 30 mg/kg	Control	Total
HVTN 703/HPTN 081	642	645	637	1924
HVTN 704/HPTN 085	899	897	903	2699

HVTN 704/ HPTN 085 and HVTN 703/HPTN 081

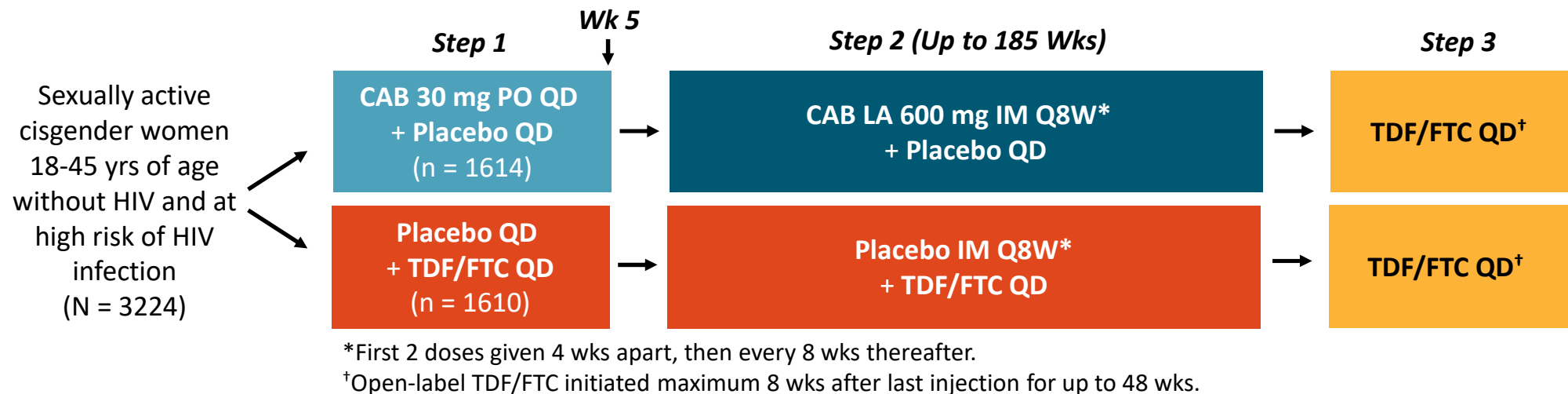
Prevention Efficacy of VRC01 against HIV-1 of Different in Vitro Sensitivities (IC_{80}) to VRC01



L Corey, NEJM 2021

HPTN 084 Interim Analysis: Long-Acting CAB vs TDF/FTC as HIV PrEP in Cisgender Women

- Double-blind, placebo-controlled phase IIb/III trial comparing efficacy, safety of LA injectable CAB vs daily oral TDF/FTC in cisgender women in sub-Saharan Africa



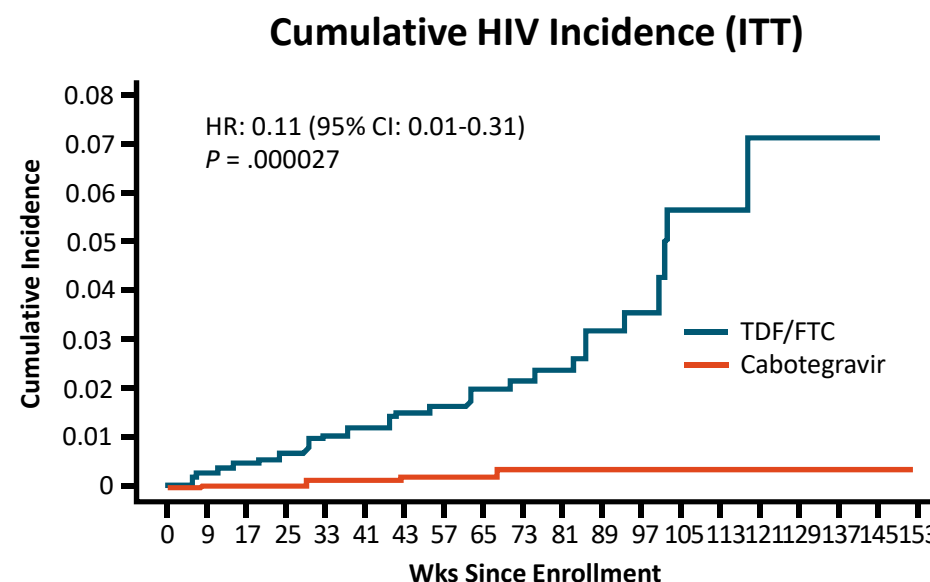
- Primary endpoint: superiority analysis of HIV incidence during steps 1 and 2
 - Prespecified stopping boundary crossed (planned interim review: November 5, 2020)

HPTN 084 Interim Analysis: HIV Incidence

- Pooled HIV incidence of 1.03 (95% CI: 0.73-1.40) per 100 PY suggests both agents highly effective in reducing HIV acquisition in study population
 - No differences in treatment effects between prespecified subgroups, including age, BMI, contraceptive use

Incidence	Cabotegravir (n = 1953 PY)	TDF/FTC (n = 1939 PY)
HIV infections, n	4	36
HIV incidence per 100 PY (95%)	0.2 (0.06-0.52)	1.86 (1.30-2.57)

- Women in cabotegravir arm had 89% lower risk of HIV infection vs TDF/FTC



TAB. 1 Studi clinici vaccinali di efficacia contro HIV-1

Nome dello studio	Immunogeno	Anni	Coorte vaccinata	Paesi coinvolti	Commenti
VAX 003	gp120 bivalente	1999-2003	Tossicodipendenti	Tailandia	No protezione No riduzione della carica virale
VAX 004	gp120 bivalente (AIDSVAX® B/E)	1998-2003	Coppie discordanti	USA	No protezione No riduzione della carica virale
HVTN 502/504 (STEP)	Vettore Ad5+proteine (Gag, Pol e Nef)	2004-2007	Uomini omosessuali Uomini e donne eterosessuali ad alto rischio	USA	Interrotto nel 2007. Il rischio di infezione appariva più elevato nei maschi Ad5 sieropositivi o non circoncisi
HVTN 503 (Phambili)	Vettore Ad5+proteine (Gag, Pol e Nef)	2007	Uomini e donne eterosessuali	Sud Africa	Interrotto a settembre 2007 a seguito dei risultati dello STEP. No protezione No riduzione della carica virale
RV144	1 ^a dose: vettore canarypox (ALVAC-HIV vCP1521) 2 ^a dose: gp120 bivalente (AIDSVAX® gp120 B/E)	2003-2009	Uomini e donne HIV negativi	Tailandia	31,2% protezione
HVTN 505	1 ^a dose: DNA codificante Gag, Pol, Nef e Env 2 ^a dose: Ad5 codificante Gag-Pol+Env	2009-2017	Uomini omosessuali Transessuali che fanno sesso con uomini	USA	No protezione No riduzione della carica virale
HVTN 702 (Uhambo)	1 ^a dose: vettore canarypox (ALVAC-HIV vCP2438) 2 ^a dose: gp120 bivalente (gp120 C/MF59)	2016-2020	Uomini e donne	Sud Africa	Interrotto a febbraio 2020 No protezione

HPX2008 /HVTN 705 (Imbokodo)	1-4 ^a dose: Ad26.Mos4.HIV 5-6 ^a dose: gp140 trimerica	2017-2022	Donne	Sud Africa	In corso
HVTN 706/HPX300 2 (Mosaico)	1-2 ^a dose: Ad26.Mos4.HIV 3-4 ^a dose: Ad26.Mos4.HIV+ Mosaico e gp140 C	2019-2023	Uomini omosessuali Transessuali che fanno sesso con uomini	Argentina, Brasile, Italia, Messico, Perù, Polonia, Spagna e USA	In corso
PrEPVacc	<i>Prima randomizzazione</i> Gruppo A: DNA-HIV-PT123+ AIDSVAX®/BE Gruppo B: DNA-HIV-PT123+ CN54gp140/MPLA + MVA-CMDR+ CN54gp140/MPLA <i>Seconda randomizzazione</i> TAF/FTC oppure TDF/FTC	2020 (ritardato al 2021) -2023	Uomini e donne	Est e Sud Africa	In corso



A Combination Efficacy Study in Africa of Two DNA-MVA-Env Protein or DNA-Env Protein HIV-1 Vaccine Regimens With PrEP (PrEPVacc)

Condition or disease ⓘ	Intervention/treatment ⓘ	Phase ⓘ
HIV Infections	Biological: Vaccine Group A: DNA-HIV-PT123 and AIDSVAX® B/E (weeks 0, 4, 24, 48)	Phase 2
	Biological: Vaccine Group B: DNA-HIV-PT123 and CN54gp140+MPLA-L (weeks 0, 4), then MVA and CN54gp140+MPLA-L (weeks 24, 48)	
	Biological: Vaccine Group C: Saline placebo (weeks 0, 4, 24, 48)	
	Drug: Control PrEP: TDF/FTC once daily (weeks 0-26)	
	Drug: Experimental PrEP: TAF/FTC once daily (weeks 0-26)	

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL *of* MEDICINE

ESTABLISHED IN 1812

DECEMBER 3, 2009

VOL. 361 NO. 23

Vaccination with ALVAC and AIDSVAX to Prevent HIV-1 Infection in Thailand

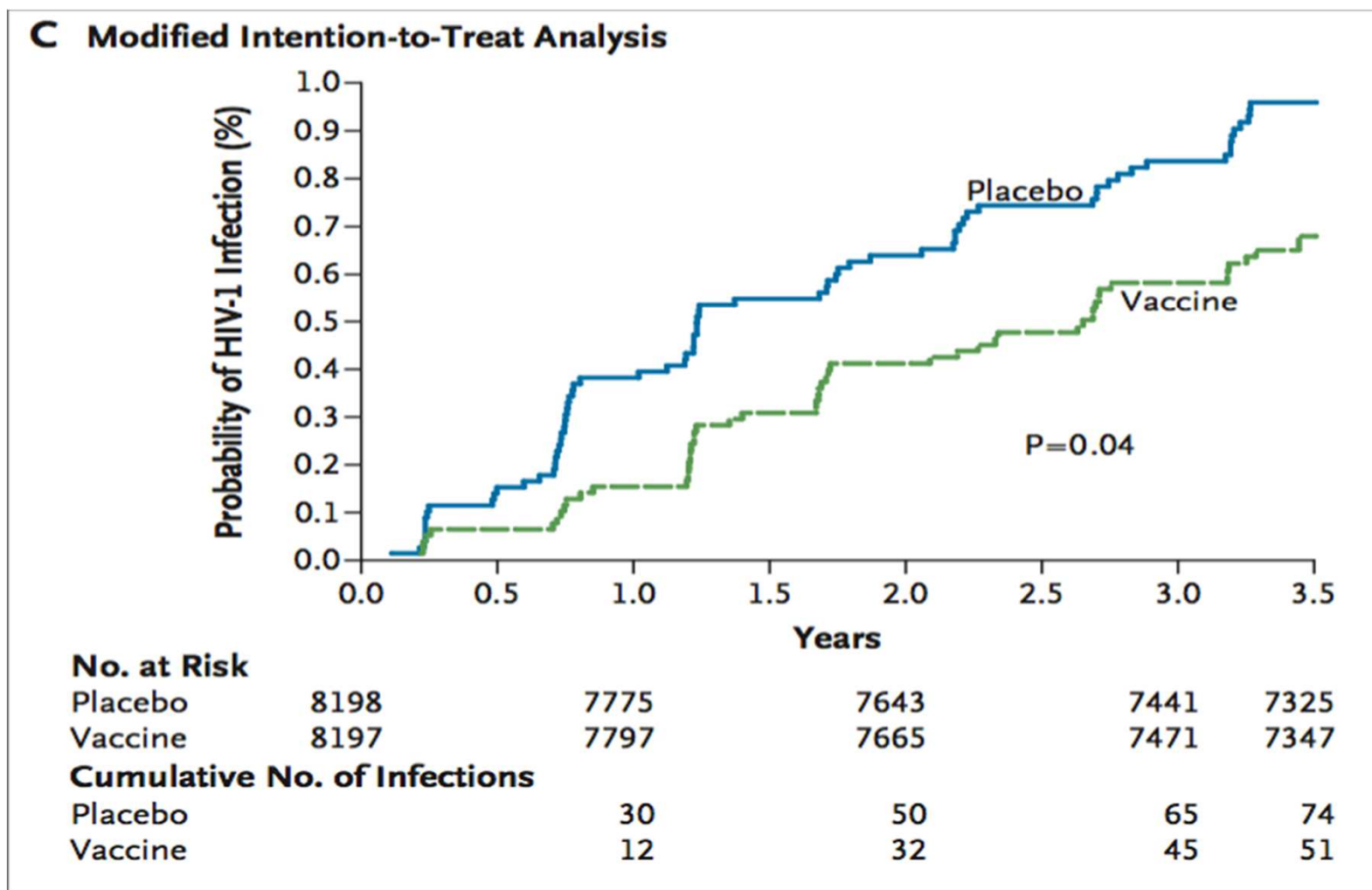
RV 144

METHODS

In a community-based, randomized, multicenter, double-blind, placebo-controlled efficacy trial, we evaluated four priming injections of a recombinant canarypox vector vaccine (ALVAC-HIV [vCP1521]) plus two booster injections of a recombinant glycoprotein 120 subunit vaccine (AIDSVAX B/E). The vaccine and placebo injections were administered to 16,402 healthy men and women between the ages of 18 and 30 years in Rayong and Chon Buri provinces in Thailand. The volunteers, primarily at heterosexual risk for HIV infection, were monitored for the coprimary end points: HIV-1 infection and early HIV-1 viremia, at the end of the 6-month vaccination series and every 6 months thereafter for 3 years.

S. Rerks-Ngarm, NEJM 2009

RV 144 trial



The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL *of* MEDICINE

ESTABLISHED IN 1812

NOVEMBER 28, 2013

VOL. 369 NO. 22

Efficacy Trial of a DNA/rAd5 HIV-1 Preventive Vaccine

HVTN 505

We randomly assigned 2504 men or transgender women who have sex with men to receive the DNA/rAd5 vaccine or placebo.

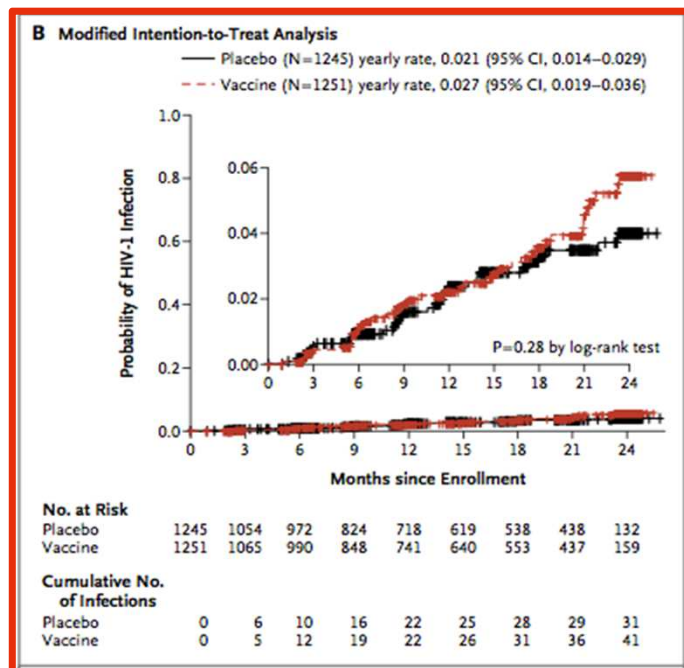
The 6-plasmid DNA vaccine (expressing clade B Gag, Pol, and Nef and Env proteins from clades A, B, and C) was administered at weeks 0, 4, and 8. The rAd5 vector boost (expressing clade B Gag-Pol fusion protein and Env glycoproteins from clades A, B, and C) was administered at week 24

We assessed HIV-1 acquisition from week 28 through month 24 (termed week 28+ infection), viral-load set point (mean plasma HIV-1 RNA level 10 to 20 weeks after diagnosis), and safety

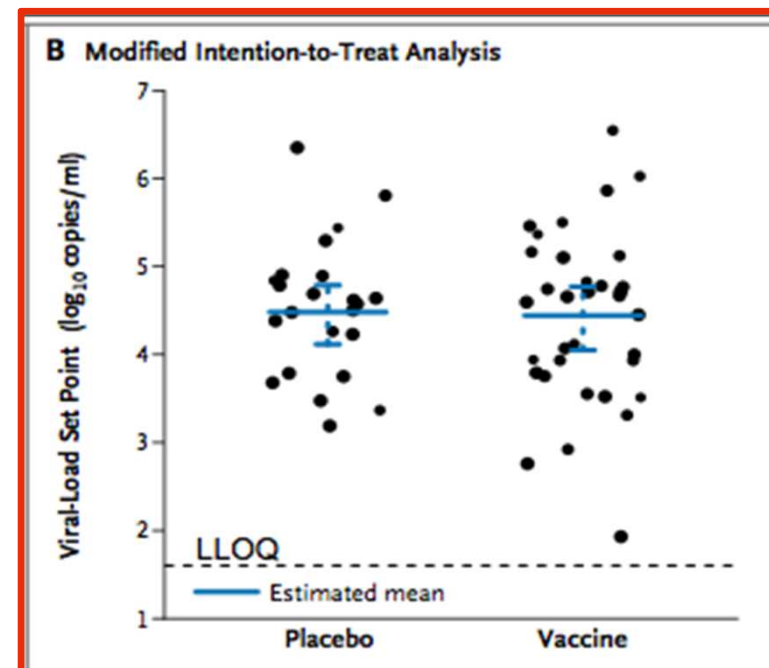
S. Hammer, NEJM 2013

HVTN 505

Cumulative incidence



Viral-load set points



SM Hammer, NEJM 2013

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL *of* MEDICINE

ESTABLISHED IN 1812

MARCH 25, 2021

VOL. 384 NO. 12

Vaccine Efficacy of ALVAC-HIV and Bivalent Subtype C gp120–MF59 in Adults

HVTN 702

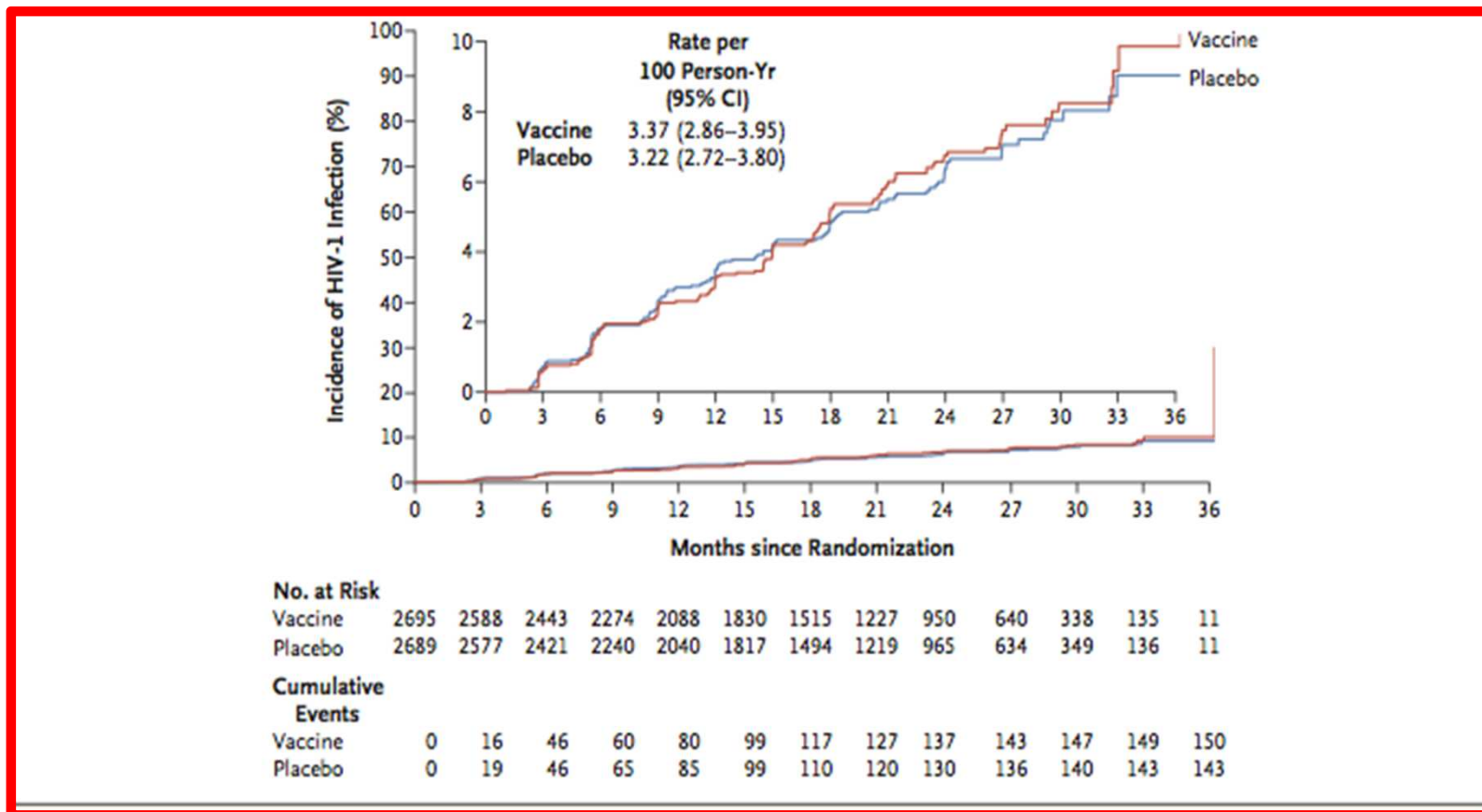
In this phase 2b–3 trial, we randomly assigned 5404 adults without HIV-1 infection to receive the vaccine or placebo

The vaccine regimen consisted of injections of ALVAC-HIV at months 0 and 1, followed by four booster injections of ALVAC-HIV plus bivalent subtype C gp120–MF59 adjuvant at months 3, 6, 12, and 18

The primary efficacy outcome was the occurrence of HIV-1 infection from randomization to 24 months

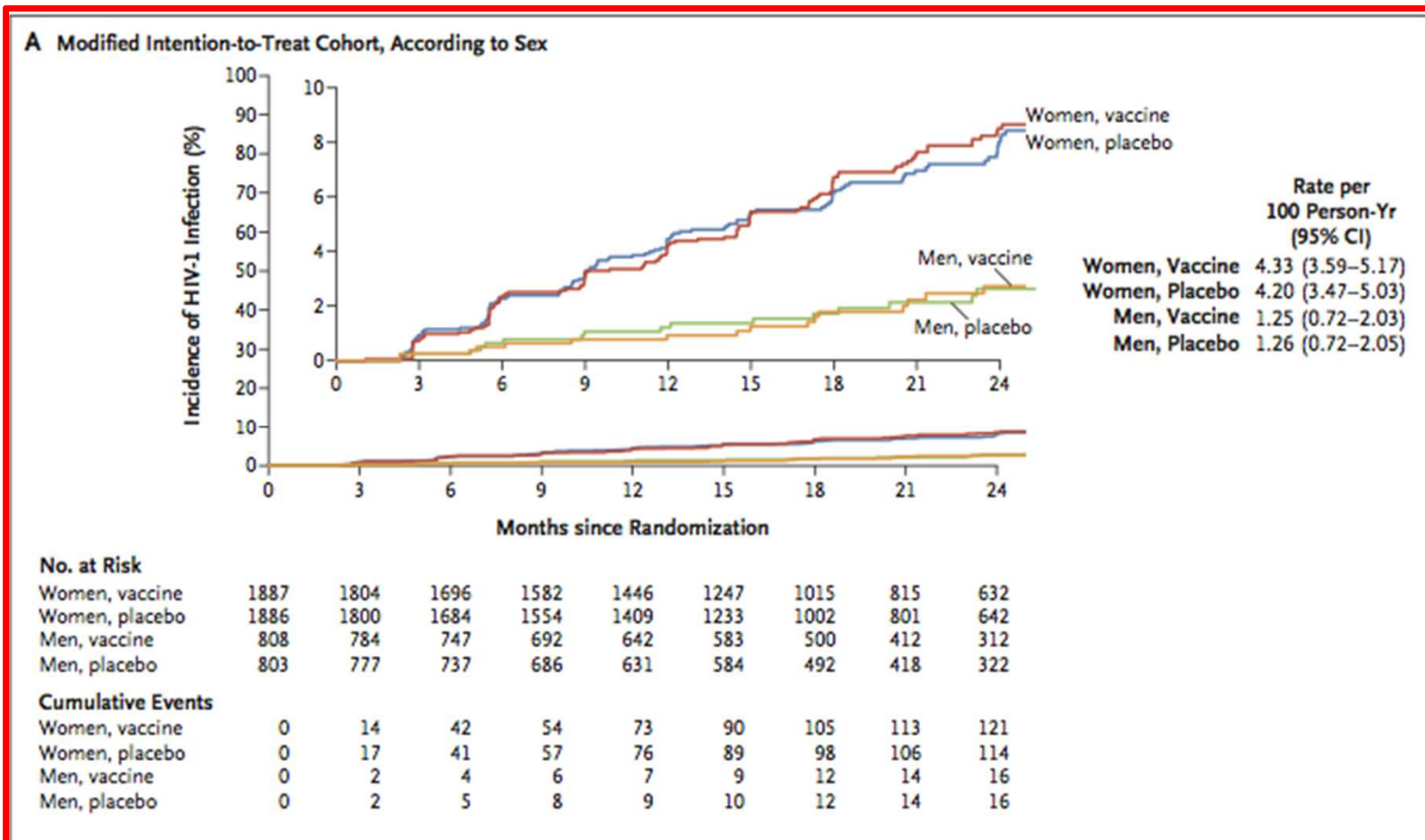
GE Gray, NEJM 2021

HVTN 702 Cumulative incidence of HIV-1 infection (0-36 months)



Ge Gray, NEJM 2021

HVTN 702 Cumulative incidence of HIV-1 infection according to sex



GE Gray, NEJM 2021

IMBOKODO

Ph2b



Southern Africa

Predominantly Clade C

Heterosexual Women

Intra-vaginal transmission

Limited PrEP use

MOSAICO

Ph3



Americas, Europe

Predominantly Clade B

MSM + TG

Intra-rectal transmission

Increased PrEP use

Recombinant vector-based vaccines

= **non-pathogenic infectious viruses expressing antigenic protein genes of a pathogen**

- Potent immunogenicity in animal and human diseases
- Need to select the proper antigen that will trigger protective immunity
- Activation of innate immunity
- Ability to induce cellular immunity and humoral immunity
- Relative ease of production for many viral and non viral vectors
- Generally favorable safety profile and lack of persistence in vivo

Replicating viral vectors

Advantages

Persistent, potentially life-long immunity

Limitations

Vector-induced disease induction in vaccinated individuals
Spread of the vector virus in the population
Risk of genetic instability

Non-replicating viral vectors

Advantages

Possibility to delete replication gene to create replication incompetent vector
Quickly cleared from body → Safety profile
Same vector can be used for multiple vaccine

Limitations

Generally less robust and/or less persistent immune response
High dose or repeated administration needed/possible for some vectors

1. Volker Understanding modern day vaccines what you need to know 2017

2. Francis Recent Advances in Vaccine Technologies 2017

3. Strugnell R, et al. Chapter 3 in: Garçon N, et al. Understanding Modern Vaccines, Perspectives in Vaccinology, Vol 1, Amsterdam, Elsevier, 2011, pp. 60–88

4. Weiner and Nabel in Plotkin chapter 67 dvpl gene based vectors 2017

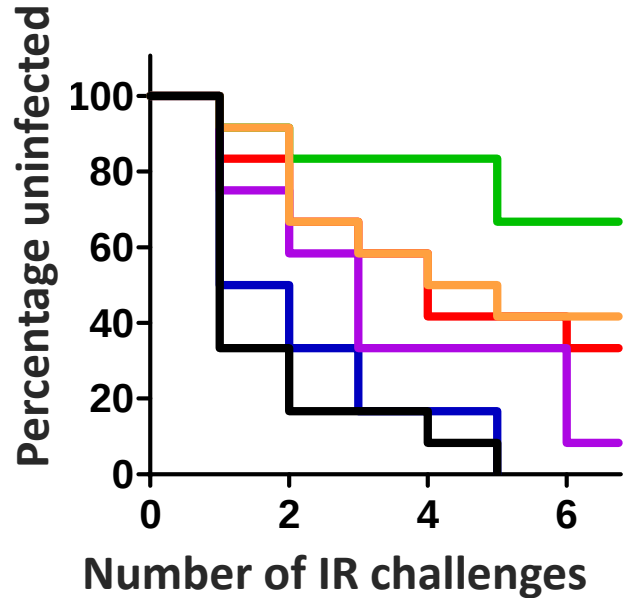
5. Rollier Viral vectors as vaccine platforms: deployment in sight 2011

6. Ewer Viral vectors as vaccine platforms: from immunogenicity to impact 2016

7. <https://www.ema.europa.eu/en>

8. <https://www.tga.gov.au/>

The Ad26/Ad26+gp140 HIV vaccine regimen provided significant protection in NHP



(virus SHIV-SF162P3, expressing clade B Env)

Vaccinations		Risk reduction per exposure	Full protection 6 challenges
Mo 0, 3	Mo 6, 12		
Ad26,	Ad26+Clade C gp140	94%	67%
Ad26,	MVA+Clade C gp140	87%	42%
Ad26,	Clade C gp140	84%	33%
Ad26,	MVA	71%	8%
Ad26,	Ad26	35%	0%
Sham		0%	0%

- Binding **antibodies** to HIV Env together with Env specific **T cells** post 3rd and post 4th vaccination correlated with protection
- **Functional antibodies, not broad neutralization** were found to correlate with protection
 - Antibody dependent cellular phagocytosis (ADCP)



Safety and immunogenicity of two heterologous HIV vaccine regimens in healthy, HIV-uninfected adults (TRAVERSE): a randomised, parallel-group, placebo-controlled, double-blind, phase 1/2a study

On day 0, participants received a first injection of tetravalent vaccine (Ad26.Mos4.HIV or placebo) or trivalent vaccine (Ad26.Mos.HIV or placebo), and those injections were repeated 12 weeks later. At week 24, vaccine groups received a third dose of tetravalent or trivalent together with clade C gp140, and this was repeated at week 48, with placebos again administered to the placebo group.

The tetravalent vaccine regimen was generally safe, well-tolerated, and found to elicit higher immune responses than the trivalent regimen. Regimens that use this tetravalent vaccine component are being advanced into field trials to assess efficacy against HIV-1 infection.

31 October 2017

START of

Proof of Concept study

Imbokodo

Imbokodo, Zulu for "rock"

The Zulu phrase "To strike a woman, is to strike a rock" refers to the strength and importance of women in their community

Aim: To evaluate the efficacy of the vaccine regimen in reducing the incidence of HIV infection



Imbokodo/HPX2008/HVTN 705:

a phase 2b multicenter, randomized, parallel group, placebo-controlled, double-blind clinical trial



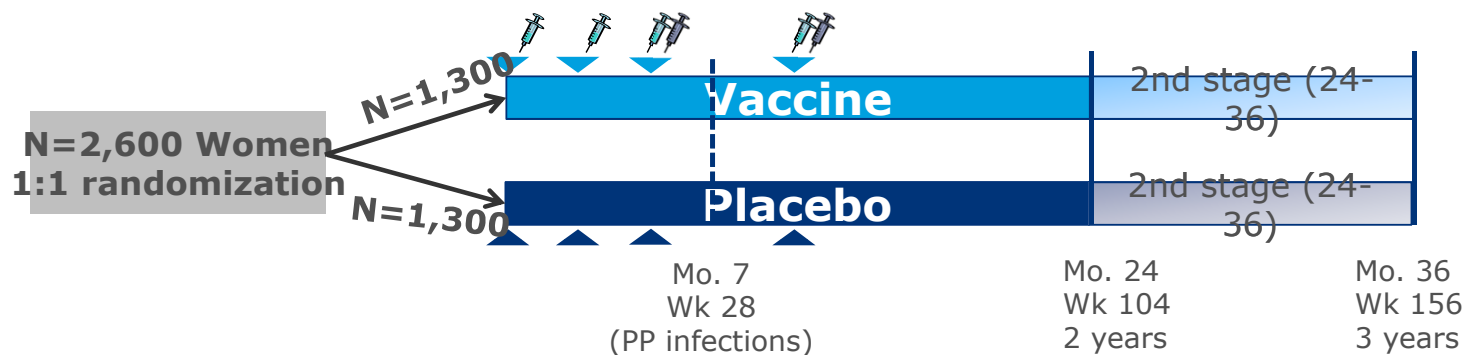
Population: Sexually active HIV-1 uninfected women (born female), age 18-35 years

Vaccine regimen: 2x Ad26.Mos4.HIV (week 0,12), 2x Ad26.Mos4.HIV+ Clade C gp140 (week 24, 48)

Objective: to evaluate the efficacy of the vaccine regimen in reducing the incidence of HIV infection in women

Protective Efficacy hypothesis: 50% (lower bound >0%) reduction in HIV-1 acquisition

Status: fully enrolled May 2019



Countries:

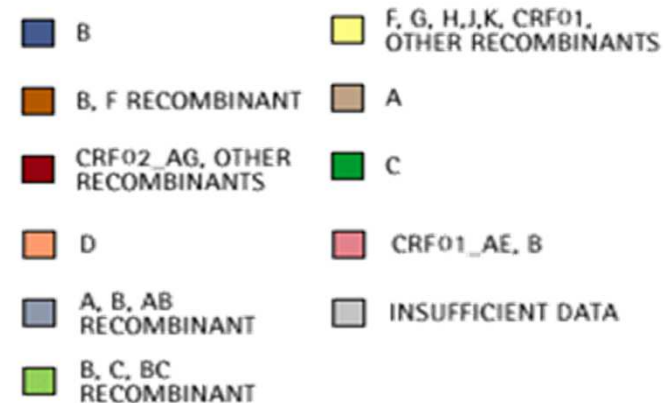
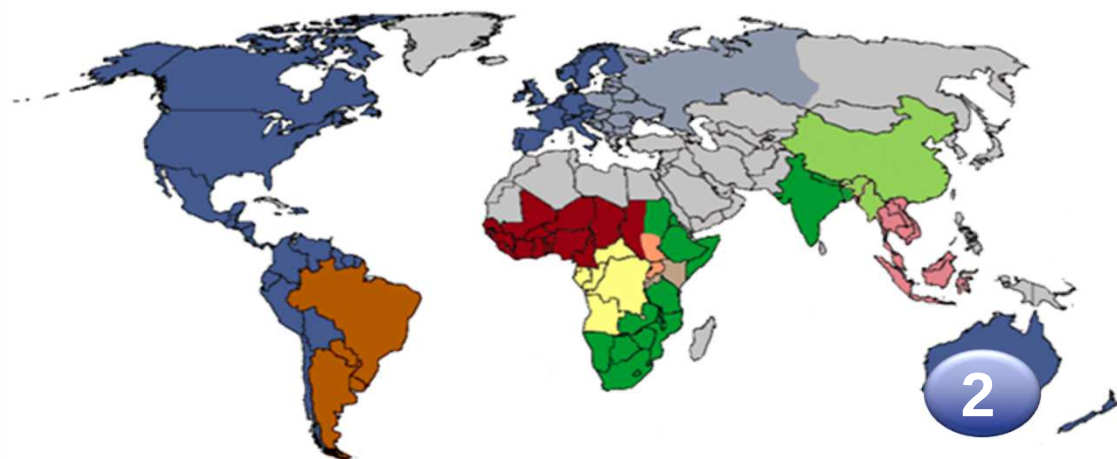
MOSAICO

HPX3002/HVTN706

A Multi-center, Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled Phase 3 Efficacy Study of a Heterologous Vaccine Regimen of Ad26.Mos4.HIV and Adjuvanted Clade C gp140 and Mosaic gp140 to Prevent HIV-1 Infection Among Cis-gender Men and Transgender Individuals who Have Sex with Cis-gender Men and/or Transgender Individuals.

The Future: HIV Preventive Vaccine

Prophylactic Vaccine Aiming at Protection Against the globally predominant clades of HIV-1



1

Vectors that elicit optimal immune responses

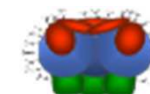


Mosaic inserts for global coverage (Gag-Pol-Env)



3

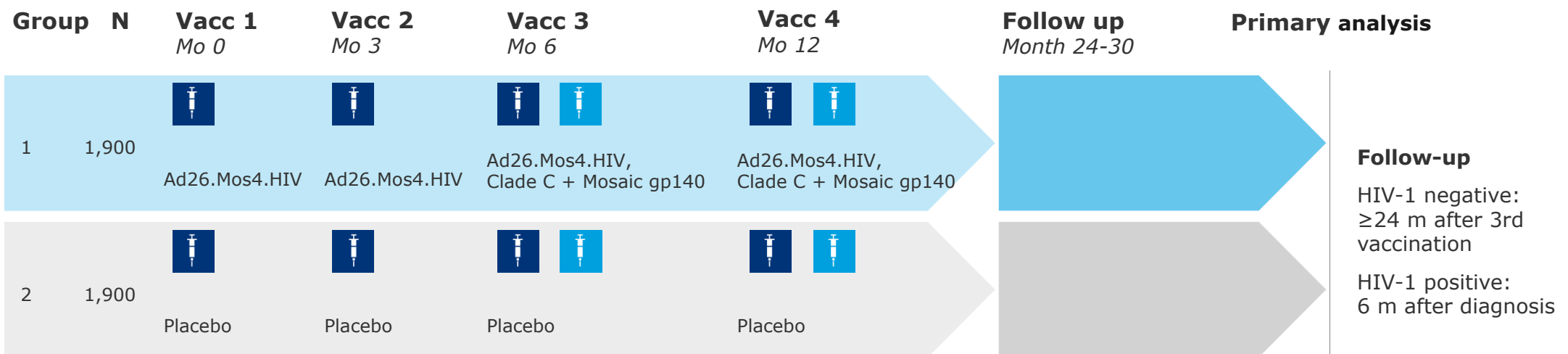
Trimeric env proteins for improved humoral immunity



MOSAICO - Study design



3,800 participants; 1:1 randomization (stratified by site)



Primary Objective and Endpoint

Primary Objective

To evaluate the vaccine efficacy (VE) for the prevention of HIV-1 infection in HIV-1 seronegative cis-gender men and transgender individuals having sex with cis-gender men and/or transgender individuals.

Primary Endpoint

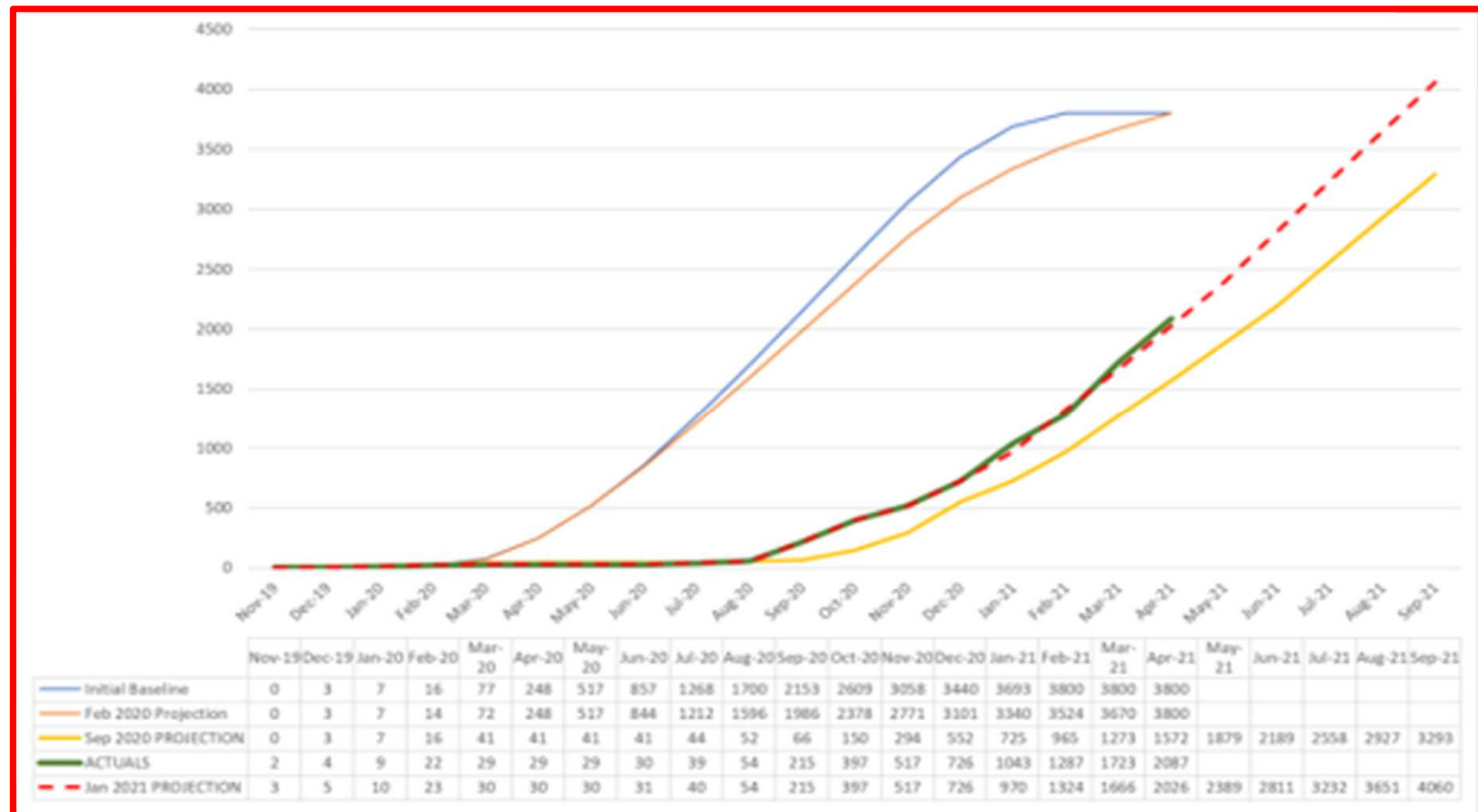
Confirmed HIV-1 infections diagnosed between Month 7 and Month x (with $24 \leq x \leq 30$ months) visits in the per-protocol (PP) population.

Main inclusion criteria

HIV-uninfected cis-gender men and transgender individuals having sex with cis-gender men and/or transgender individuals who are considered to be **at increased risk for HIV infection**. Participants must in the last 6 months have had:

- **Any condomless receptive anal or vaginal sex (not included is condomless anal sex within a mutually monogamous relationship ≥ 12 months if the partner is HIV negative or living with HIV and virally suppressed), OR**
- **Rectal or urethral gonorrhea or chlamydia or incident syphilis, OR**
- **Any stimulant use (eg, cocaine, amphetamine), OR**
- **5 or more sex partners**

Potential participant is negative for HIV-1 and HIV-2 infection <28 days prior to first vaccination.



In Italy 74 patients screened