

Key messages from CROI 2008

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- Disappointing results from prevention studies
- Not taking ARVs is bad for you – even at high CD4s
- Surprises may lurk in the future re ARV toxicity – especially as we age
- We need to keep developing better/more tolerable ARVs and test them on naïve
- Hepatitis C is *really* bad for you – we need a better prevention strategy

Disappointing results from prevention studies

- STEP trial – “an HIV vaccine is not currently feasible” (Ron Desrosiers)
- Herpes prophylaxis
- CONRAD microbicides trial
- Circumcision of HIV+ men
 - BUT...
- PrEP works in babies
- So do behavioural interventions in adults
- Trials just starting (Peru PrEP, ARV-containing microbicides) may work better

Not taking ARVs is bad for you

- Increased risk of cancer even at CD4s >500
- Any viremia increases lymphoma risk
- D-dimer and other indicators: new tests indicated?

Unexpected toxicities may lurk, especially with age

- Abacavir/ddI and MI
- TDF / PIs and bone loss
- Reduced drug elimination with age

We need to keep developing better/more tolerable ARVs and test them on naïve

- We are going to run out of MDR-HIV patients on whom to try new drugs
- MERIT shows a complex new ARV can work for most naïves
- Next step: new formulations? (Nanoparticles etc)

Hepatitis C is really bad for you

- Fast progression to fibrosis in HIV+/HCV+ despite HAART
- Ditto for acutely infected MSM
- We need to take HCV as seriously as HIV and develop a better prevention strategy