

Preliminary real world experience in a cohort of PLWH undergoing LA CAB/RPV in Latina: a heterogeneous population with homogeneous efficacy and satisfaction



A. Carraro^{1,2}, R. Marocco², G. Mancarella^{1,2}, A. Zingaropoli¹, E. Tortellini¹, S. Guardiani¹, S. De Maria^{1,2}, S. Corazza¹, A. Grimaldi¹, A. Gasperin¹, P. Zuccalà², A. Parente^{1,2}, L. Ansaldo², M. D'Achille², V. Rossi², O. D'Onofrio², P. Addio³, C. Del Borgo², M. Lichtner⁴

¹ Department of Public Health and Infectious Diseases, Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, Italy ² Infectious Diseases Unit, SM Goretti Hospital, Sapienza University of Rome, Latina, Italy ³ Pharmacy Unit, SM Goretti Hospital, Latina, Italy ⁴ Department of NESMOS, Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, Italy

Introduction

- Long-acting cabotegravir/rilpivirine (LA CAB/RPV) therapy has not inferior efficacy in maintaining virological suppression to other switching commonly used therapy.
- The effect of LA CAB/RPV on inflammation and metabolism is not yet known
- The durability of a treatment depends on intrinsic effectiveness and its low impact on quality of life.
- Impact on PLWH life can be evaluated through Patient Reported Outcomes

Study Design

- Longitudinal prospective study
- Observation period: April 2023 – April 2024, median follow up 41 weeks, range 14-57 w.



- Population:** 36 people living with HIV
- Centre of care:** Infectious Diseases Unit, S.M. Goretti Hospital, Sapienza University of Rome, Latina
- Sample and Questionnaires** collected (T0, T4, T28):

Blood → blood count, renal and hepatic function, coagulation, metabolic factor, viral load, CD4/CD8 count

PHQ9: Patient Health Questionnaire
GAD7: General Anxiety Disorder
FSFI/IIEF-5: Female sexual function Index and International Index Erectil Function
Stigma scale
QoL: Quality of Life
HIVTSQs and HIVTSQc: HIV treatment satisfaction (standard and change)
PIN: Perception of injection

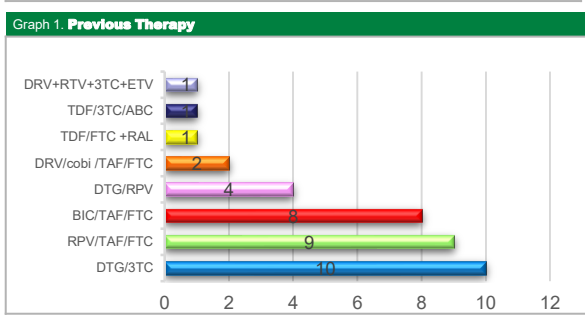
Vaginal lavage, vaginal swabs and cervix brushing → IL6, IL8, IL1beta, PCR N. gonorrhoeae, C. trachomatis, U. genitalium, Pap-test

Semen → IL6, IL8, IL1beta

POPULATION

The study population is heterogeneous, in terms of gender, age, infection and treatment history (Table 1, Graph 1)

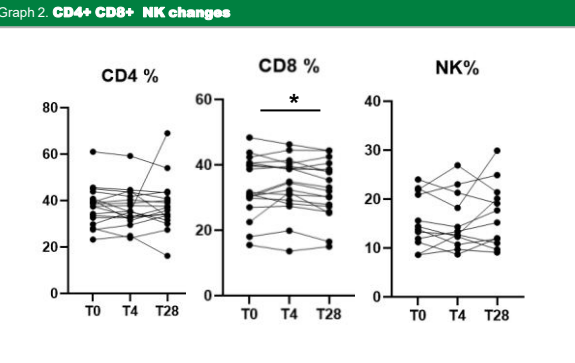
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| Age, y, mean (range) | 47 (29-68) |
| Reported gender, No (%) | |
| Female | 11 (30,5) |
| Male | 25 (69,5) |
| BMI, Kg/m2, median (range) | 25,7 (17,7-29,9) |
| Baseline % CD4+ , median (range) | 37,6 (19-65) |
| AIDS history, No (%) | 4 (11) |
| HBcAb +, con HBsAb+ (%) | 2 (6) |



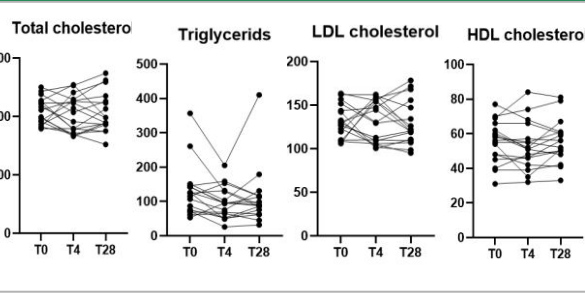
Results

VIRO – IMMUNOLOGIC PROFILE

- Virologic suppression in every patient at T28
- CD4+ T-lymphocyte % remains stable (T0 37,6% [19-65], T28 36,4% [16-54])
- CD8+ T-lymphocyte % decreases (T0 43.3 [31.0-51.0], T28 38.7 [30.9-43.9]; p=0.0202)
- NK cells & remains stable (T0 14,4 [5,6-28,1], T28 15,2 [9,1-29,9])



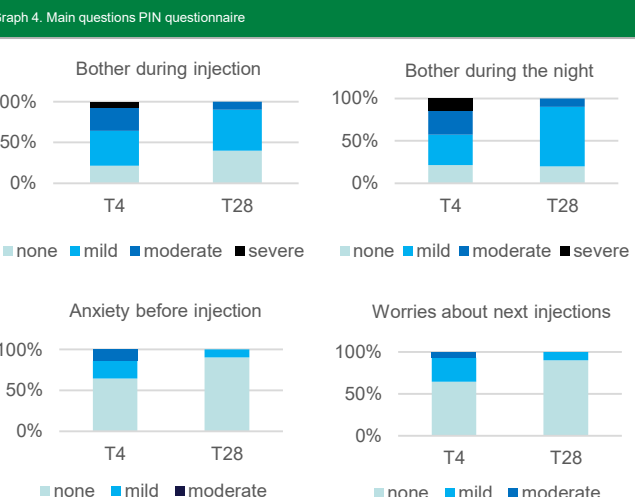
Graph 3. Total cholesterol, triglyceride, LDL-c, HDL-c changes



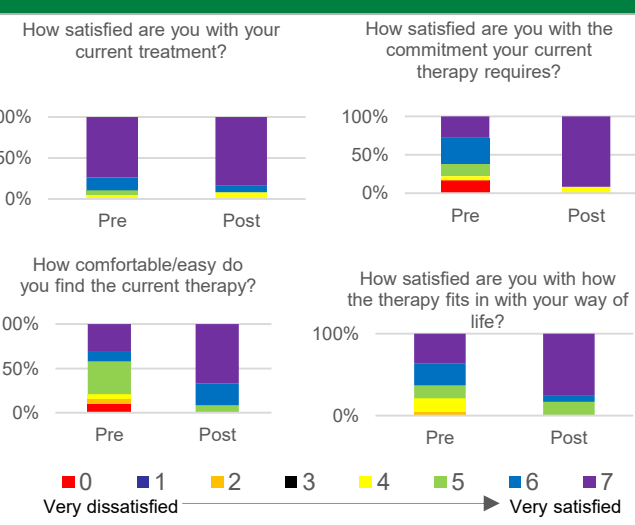
METABOLIC PROFILE

- A downward trend in triglycerides and LDL-c (graph 3)
- Weight, abdominal circumference and blood pressure remain stable

PATIENT REPORTED OUTCOMES



Graph 5. Main questions HIVQOL questionnaire



- 11 people complain pain in the site of injection at least one time (rilpivirine more than cabotegravir)
- Satisfaction improves with CAB/RPV LA and fear and pain associated with the injection decrease over time.

Conclusions

- Virological suppression persists in every PLWH with LA CAB/RPV, regardless of age, sex, length of infection, stage of onset, previous therapy.
- During LA CAB/RPV, CD8+ levels reduce; the impact on lipids is not yet clear, but initial results are promising.
- Despite injection related pain, patients prefer LA CAB/RPV to oral therapy.

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