

# Neutral Metabolic Impact of Long-Acting CAB+RPV in PLWH: A Tuscan Multicenter Observational Study (LAHIV)



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## Introduction/Summary

- Since its introduction in Italy in June 2022, the cabotegravir (CAB) and rilpivirine (RPV) combination — a bimonthly intramuscularly administered regimen — represents the inaugural long-acting treatment to maintain virological suppression in HIV-1.
- This study evaluates shifts in creatinine, total cholesterol, CD4, and triglyceride levels from baseline to weeks 28 and 44 post-transition to this regimen.

## Study Design

- We conducted a multicenter observational study across 10 of the 11 Infectious Disease units in Tuscany.
- We included all virologically suppressed (HIV-RNA <50 cp/mL) persons living with HIV (PLWH) older than 18 years who initiated CAB+RPV and who had creatinine, cholesterol, triglycerides, and CD4 measured at week 28 and week 44.
- PLWH missing any test or lacking sufficient follow-up were excluded.

## Methods

- Descriptive analysis was employed to illustrate population characteristics.
- For the differences in values between baseline and 28 and 48 weeks, we used the Wilcoxon test for paired data

Table 1. Clinical/demographic characteristics of adults with HIV-1, switching to RPV+CAB, with laboratory tests available at the 28th and 44th week of follow-up in 10 out of 11 infectious disease units in Tuscany, Italy.

	PLWH with follow-up at 28 weeks (N=33)		PLWH with follow-up at 44 weeks (N=13)	
Italians, n (%)				
Gender, n (%)				
• Female	7	21.2	1	7.7
• Male	26	78.8	12	92.3
Age at entry, median [IQR]	51	42-57	47	41-53
Risk of HIV transmission, n (%)				
• Heterosexual	8	24.2	4	30.7
• MSM	15	45.4	6	46.1
• Intravenous drug users	5	15.1	3	23.1
• Other/ Not known	5	15.1	-	-
HIV-RNA Zenit, Log <sub>10</sub> copies/mL, median [IQR]	4.8	4.3-5.2	4.4	3.8-5.4
Nadir CD4 (cells/mL), median [IQR]	295	99-395	322	258-431
CD4+ T cells at baseline/ $\mu$ L, median [IQR]	860	692- 1040	956	640- 1085
CD4/CD8 cells at baseline, median [IQR]	1.1	0.9-1.3	1.1	0.8-1.5
Triglycerides at baseline mg/dL, median [IQR]	98	86-138	98	79-147
Cholesterol at baseline mg/dL, median [IQR]	187	153-213	178	144-188
Creatinine at baseline mg/dL, median [IQR]	0.93	0.81-1	0.88	0.81-1.01
Type of pre-switch regimen				
• NNRTI	11	33.3	8	61.5
• PI	5	15.1	3	23.3
• INSTI	25	75.5	7	53.8
BMI, median [IQR]	24.6	22.0-27.4	24.7	24.2- 29.4
Pre-switch regimen with TDF	2	6.1	3	23.1
Dyslipidemia	14	42.2	4	30.7
Statins therapy	9	27.3	4	30.7

ART: antiretroviral treatment; MSM: males who have sex with males; PI: Protease inhibitor; NNRTI: non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors; INSTI: integrase strand transfer inhibitor

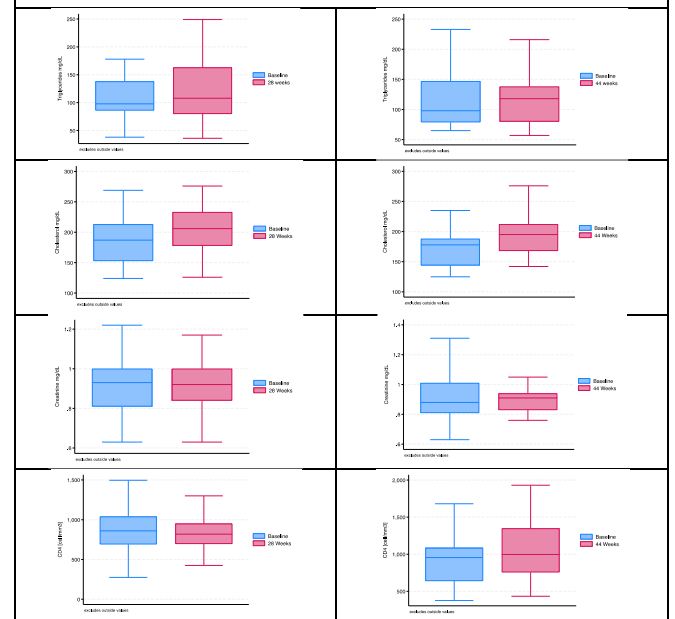
## DIFFERENCES

- At 28 and 44 weeks, we observed no significant changes in triglycerides, cholesterol, creatinine, and CD4 count [Figure 1].
- A modest and not significant increase in cholesterol was discernible post-switch, predominantly in PLWH not on statins (Figure 2).
- Although sample size constraints precluded comprehensive stratification, no marked biomarker fluctuations were noted even when stratifying by pre-switch regimen (PI, INSTI, and NNRTI).
- A median increase of 114 CD4 lymphocytes was observed at week 44, although not statistically significant, in PLWH already showing elevated CD4 lymphocyte levels

## Conclusion

- Preliminary findings suggest the metabolic impact of transitioning to CAB+RPV is negligible.
- To confirm these findings and allow for more accurate stratification, further studies with extended follow-up and larger numbers of participants are required.

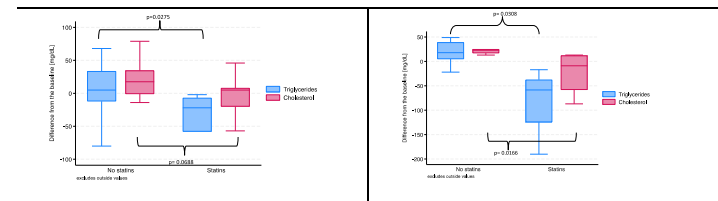
Figure 1. Differences in triglycerides, cholesterol, creatinine, and CD4 from baseline to weeks 28 and 44 in adults with HIV-1, switching to RPV+CAB in 10 out of 11 infectious disease units in Tuscany, Italy.



	PLWH with follow-up at 28 weeks (N=33)	p	PLWH with follow-up at 44 weeks (N=13)	p
$\Delta$ Triglycerides mg/dL, median [IQR]	0 [-22 24]	0.7955	5 [-58 20]	0.5067
$\Delta$ Cholesterol mg/dL, median [IQR]	10 [-4 32]	0.0606	17 [11 24]	0.1328
$\Delta$ Creatinine mg/dL, median [IQR]	-0.01 [-0.08 0.06]	0.6166	0.04 [-0.07 0.05]	0.5760
$\Delta$ C�4 , median [IQR]	31 [-45 120]	0.2312	114 [-31 266]	0.0747

$\Delta$ =difference from the baseline

Figure 2. Differences in cholesterol and triglycerides at weeks 28 and 44 from baseline, by statin treatment status in adults with HIV-1, switching to RPV+CAB in 10 out of 11 infectious disease units in Tuscany, Italy.



## Results

### DEMOGRAPHIC

- The study comprised 33 PLWH evaluated at week 28 and 13 PLWH at week 44
- Demographic clinical characteristics are reported in Table 1.
- In the 28-week group, nearly half reported dyslipidemia at baseline, but less than 30% were on statin treatment.
- In both groups, the most frequent pre-switch regimen included and integrase strand inhibitors