

18ª edición

**POSTCROI**2021

Una actualización de la 28ª Conference on  
Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections



# CROI 2021: Top Ten for Clinicians

**Josep M Llibre, MD, PhD**

Enfermedades Infecciosas

Hospital Universitari Germans Trias

Badalona, Barcelona

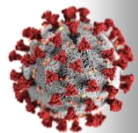
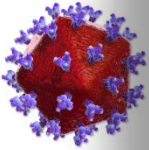
@DrBike7

# Top Ten CROI 2021. Take homes.

1. Rifapentine & Moxifloxacin 4M (2HPZM+2HPM) beat classic 6M RHZE in pulmonary TB in PLWH.
2. Prévenir TDF/FTC PrEP: Daily = On demand.
3. NADIA: DRVr non-inferior to DTG in 2<sup>ND</sup> line (1<sup>ST</sup> salvage) in Africa.
4. Lenacavapir in salvage ART: record VL decay in HTE with MDR.
5. Islatravir multiple dosing possibilities for PrEP and ART... and new partner.
6. mRNA vaccines come to SHIV in macaques... with significant success.

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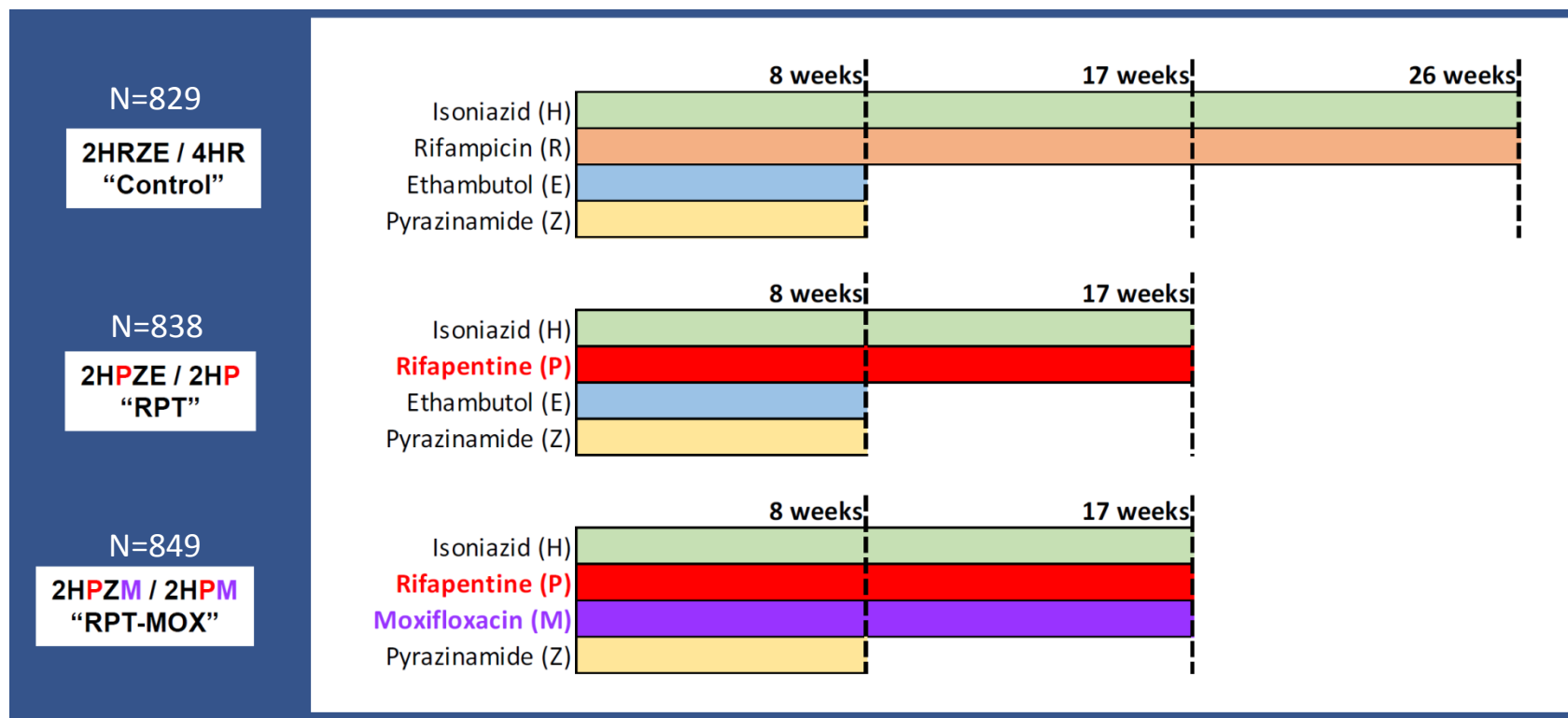
7. One dose mRNA vaccine sufficient in COVID-experienced.
8. Blaze-1: Bamlanivimab + etesivimab: significant improvement in mild-mod ambulatory COVID.
9. Bamlanivimab (& REG-2 cocktail) ↓ symptomatic COVID & faster viral clearance in PrEP/PEP.
10. Molnupiravir, oral: No culturable SARS-CoV-2 at 5 days.



# Rifapentine +/- Moxifloxacin for Pulmonary TBC in PLWH (S31/A5349)

- Intl, randomized (1:1:1), phase 3, open-label, non-inferiority. HIV+ allowed if CD4 >100 cells, only EFV.
- Microbiol confirmed, *M. tuberculosis* susceptible. ITT-E, M≠F (lost to FU, pregnancy, violent, TB reinfection, deaths excluded).
- 2,516 randomized, 214 (8%) were HIV+ (median CD4+ 344 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>; on EFV-based ART at enrollment 53%).
- 73% cavitory disease. Median BMI 19 kg/m<sup>2</sup>.

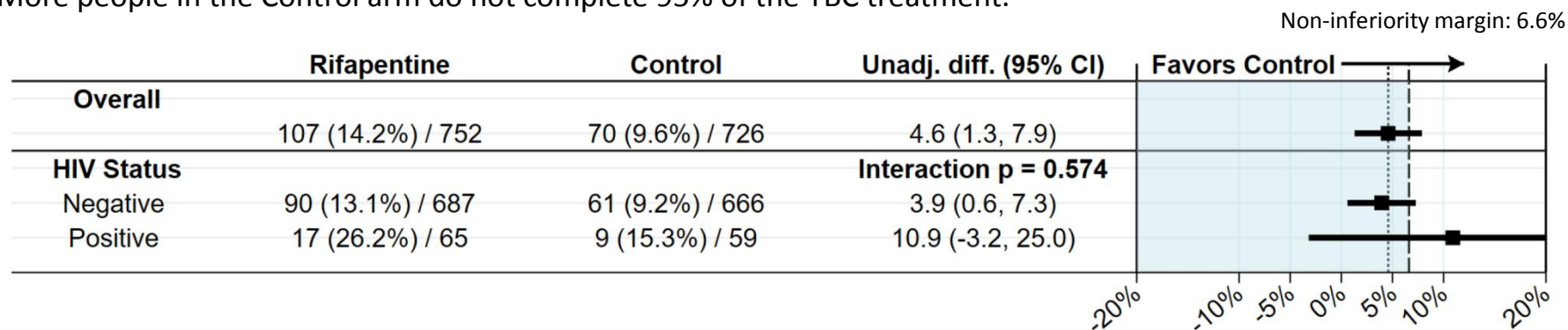
Stratified by Site, HIV status, Presence of cavitory disease



# Rifapentine +/- Moxifloxacin for Pulmonary TBC in PLWH (S31/A5349)

Unfavourable outcomes (n(%)) in primary assessable analysis pop: TB disease-free survival 12 months after randomization .

- More people in the Control arm do not complete 95% of the TBC treatment.

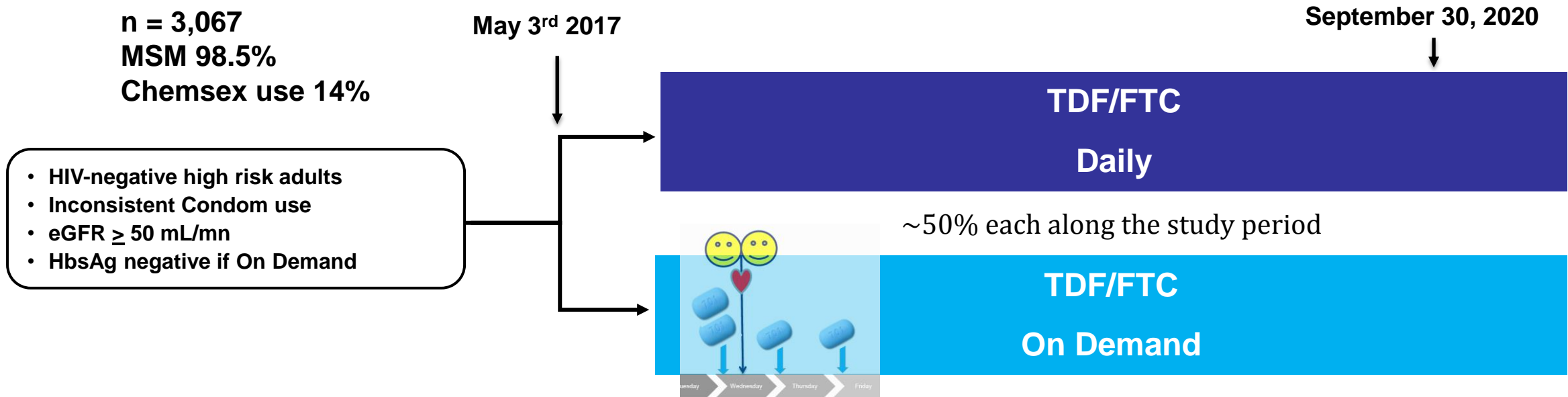


**Rifapentine-Moxifloxacin (2HPZM/ 2HPM) regimen represents a major milestone in the pursuit of shorter TB treatment regimens for PLWH**

| HIV+ Safety Outcomes                                       | Control         | Rifapentine Moxifloxacin | Rifapentine   | Total    |
|--|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------|----------|
| <b>Total safety population</b>                             | 70              | 72                       | 71            | 213      |
| <b>Primary Safety Outcome (Grade 3-5 AEs on treatment)</b> | <b>15 (21%)</b> | 10 (14%)                 | 12 (17%)      | 37 (17%) |
| <b>SAEs during treatment</b>                               | <b>7 (10%)</b>  | 2 (3%)                   | 6 (8%)        | 15 (7%)  |
| <b>Deaths</b>  | 2 (3%)          | 0 (0%)                   | <b>3 (4%)</b> | 5 (2%)   |

# Study Design

## Open-Label Prospective Cohort Study in the Paris Region



- Participants opted for either Daily or On Demand PrEP and could switch regimen
- Follow-up every 3 months with 4<sup>th</sup> Gen ELISA HIV test and plasma creatinine
- STI screening at physician's discretion (Guidelines recommend every 3 months in MSM)
- Condoms, gels, risk reduction and adherence counseling, Q on sexual behavior

# HIV Incidence

**Global HIV Incidence: 0.11/100 PY (95% CI: 0.04-0.23) (6 cases; all them PrEP stopped. 1/6 M184V)**

**Mean Follow-up of 22.1 months and 5633 Person-Years**

**Rate of study discontinuation: 14.4/100 PY**

| Treatment   |   | IRR (95%CI)                        |
|---|---|------------------------------------|
| TDF/FTC Daily   | <p>High and identical efficacy of daily and on-demand PrEP.<br/>Good safety profile with both dosing regimens.<br/>High retention rate.<br/>High rate of bacterial STIs, watch out hep C.</p>   | <p><b>0.99</b><br/>(0.13-7.38)</p> |
| TDF/FTC On Demand   |   |                                    |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any STD</li> <li>43 cases</li> <li>Lower drug</li> </ul> | <p>RCT (n=52) with Doxycycline 100 mg/daily x 48 weeks in HIVneg MSM with prior syphilis demonstrates: 82% reduction in STIs with no <i>Chlamydia</i> (p=0.001) and Syphilis (p=0.98). No impact on gonorrhea.<br/>DISCO Multicenter study (n=500) ongoing.</p> | <p>toxicity.</p>                   |

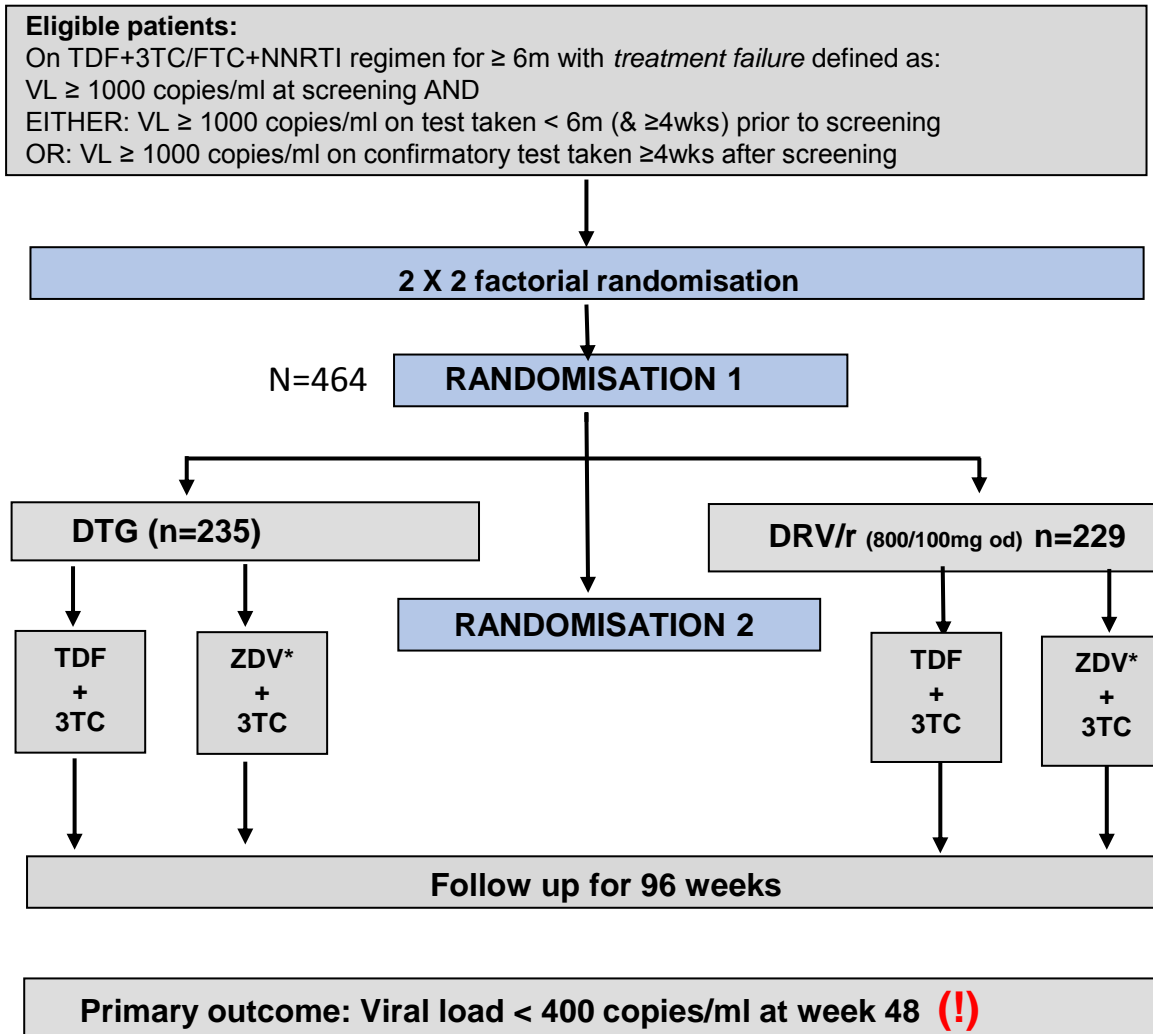
T Grennan, CROI 2021, #709

**Oral Abstract-02**

**HIV TREATMENT AND PREVENTION: NEW  
OPPORTUNITIES TO OPTIMIZE DRUG DOSING,  
ADHERENCE, AND ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY**

**11:15 AM - 1:15 PM EST**

# NADIA Trial: DRV/r vs DTG and TDF vs ZDV in 1<sup>ST</sup> salvage (2<sup>ND</sup> Line) in Africa.



- 7 sites in Uganda, Kenya, Zimbabwe (July-Dec 2019).
- HIV VL and CD4 monitoring at 24 and 48 weeks.
- Batched GRT on stored BL samples (results blinded).
- ITT;  $\delta$  for non-inf: 12%.
- Died prior to week 48: 5 (1.1%), Lost-to-FU: 1 (0.2%).
- Scheduled visits attended: > 99%.
- Median CD4 194 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>, VL >100.000 28%.
- M184V/I 86%; K65R/N 50%.



# NADIA Trial: DRV/r vs DTG and TDF vs ZDV in 1<sup>ST</sup> salvage (2<sup>ND</sup> Line) in Africa.

Efficacy outcomes (VL < 50 c/mL, ITT; secondary outcome):

**DTG vs DRV/r:** 80.9% vs 79.5% (1.4; 95%CI -5.9 to 8.6). **Non-inf confirmed** ( $\delta$  12%).

- With CD4 <200 cells: 89.6% vs 95.6% (-6.0; -12.5, +0.6).
- No active (0) NRTIs: 92.4% vs 93.7%.
- D/C due to AEs: 0.9% vs 1.3%.
- VL rebound  $\geq$  1000 c/ml (confirmed) with  $\geq$ 1 major DRM: 4 DTG (1.7%; 1 intermediate, 3 high-level) vs 0 DRV/r.

**TDF vs ZDV:** 80.7%

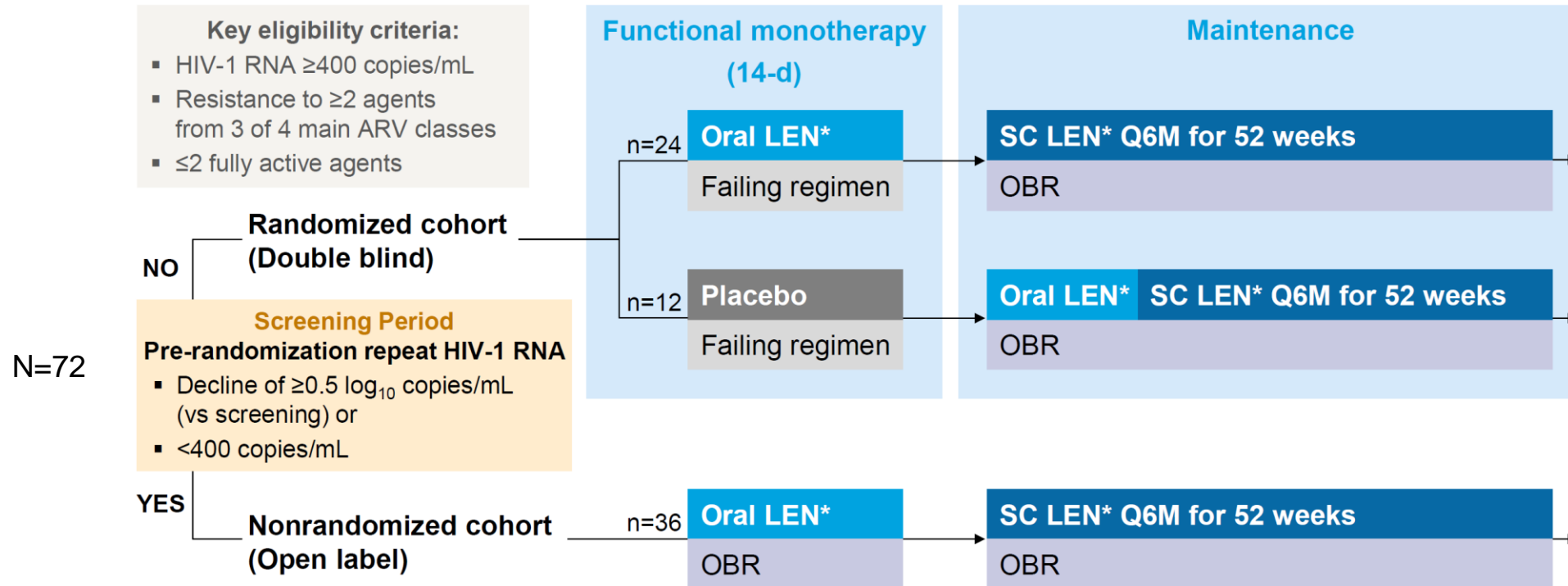
- With K65R/N pre
- With M184V/I: 9

**DTG was not superior to DRV/r in efficacy or safety in 2<sup>ND</sup> line.  
DTG resistance (2%) can occur, usually high-level.  
TDF/3TC is non-inferior to switching to ZDV/3TC.  
High rates of VS will all strategies**

# Lenacapavir in Phase 2/3 in Heavily ART-experienced PMW



- First-in-class HIV capsid inhibitor, multi-site MOA, highly potent (nano-molar,  $EC_{50}=50$  pM) and long-acting.
- No cross-resistance and no observed pre-existing resistance.
- Single SC doses maintained target concentrations for 26 weeks, supporting its use once every 6 months: Median CD4 150 cells, VL >75,000 c/mL 28%.



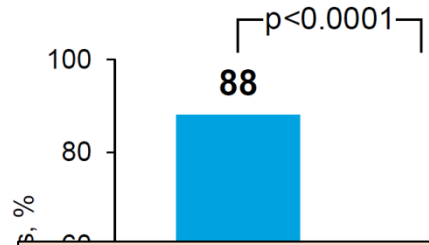
\*Oral LEN administered as 600 mg on Days 1 and 2, 300 mg on Day 8; SC LEN administered as 927 mg (2 x 1.5 mL) in the abdomen on Day 15.

OBR, optimized background regimen (investigational agents, such as fostemsavir, were allowed; ATV, ATV/co, ATV/r, EFV, ETV, NVP, TPV were not allowed).

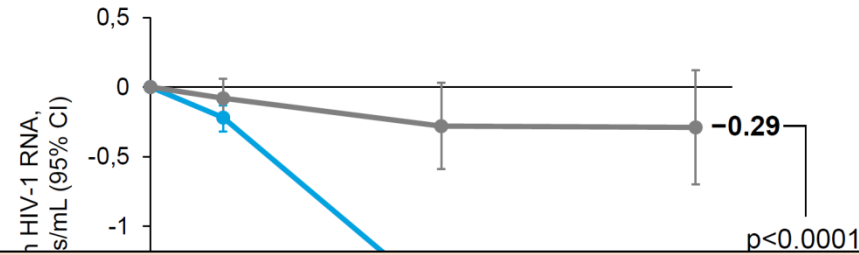
# Lenacapavir in Phase 2/3 in Heavily ART-experienced PMW

## Primary Endpoint

% Achieving HIV-1 RNA Decline  $\geq 0.5 \log_{10}$  copies/mL



Mean Change in HIV-1 RNA by visit (95% CI)



VL decline of some comparators (log<sub>10</sub> copies/mL)

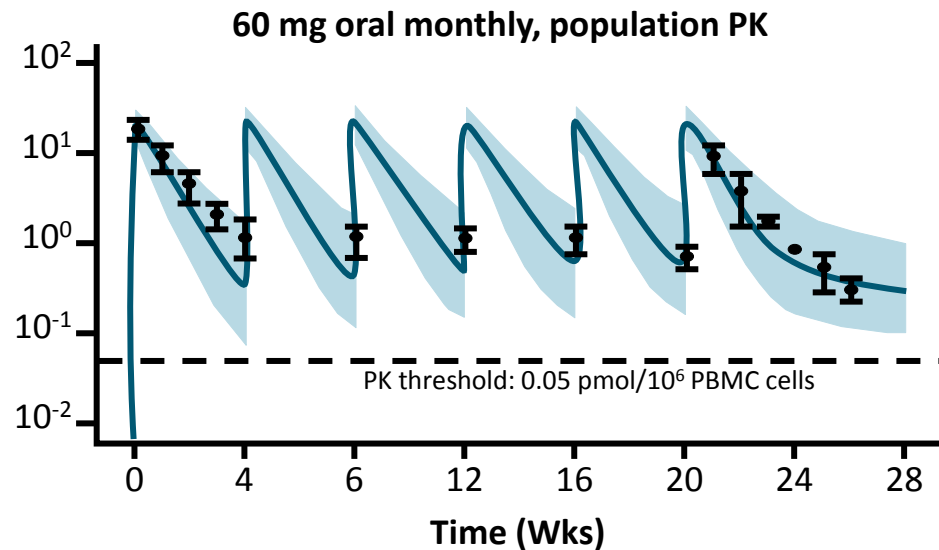
| LEN SC <sup>1</sup> | IBA <sup>2</sup> | FTV <sup>3</sup> | DTG <sup>4</sup> |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| -2.3                | 1.1              | 0.79             | 1.43             |

**In HTE PWH with MDR, LEN showed potent antiviral activity, when added to a failing regimen and led to high rates of virologic suppression**

- 73% VL<50 c/mL at week 26 (ITT M=F), CD4 increase +72 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>.
- 2 CVF with LEN DRMs (M66I, and M66I + N74D) with high level LEN resistance.
- No safety issues. No SAEs related to study drug or leading to study drug discontinuation.
- ISRs common (46%), mostly grade 1.

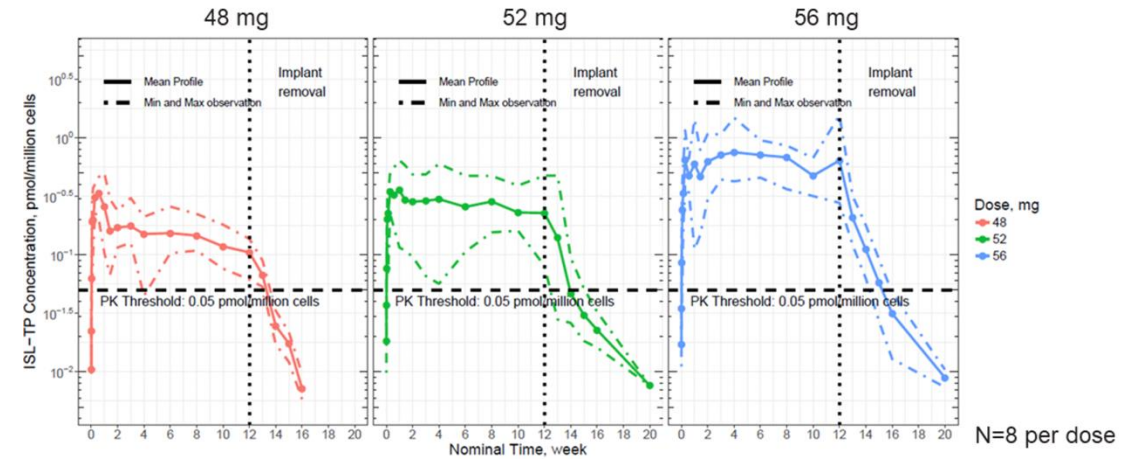
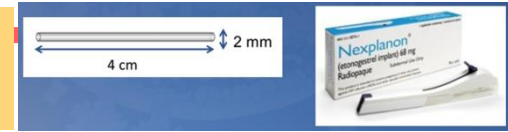
# Islatravir LA, multiple dosing possibilities for PrEP and ART

- First-in-class nucleoside transcriptase translocation inhibitor.
- Intracellular  $t_{1/2}$  of ISL-TP: 190 hours (8 days).
- High potency, amenable for LA formulations.

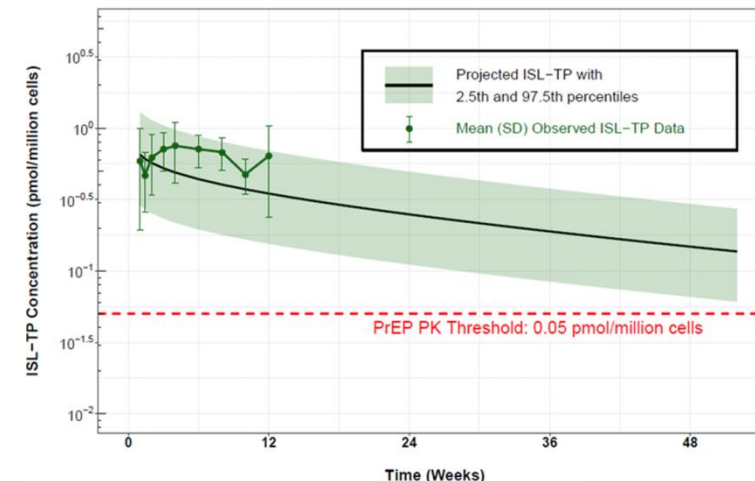


- Predicted IQ >17
- IQ >5 associated with antiviral efficacy against wt and M184V HIV in PrEP
- Adequate tissue distribution (rectal, cervical, vaginal).
- Dose selected for phase 3 studies: 60 mg oral monthly:
- IMPOWER-022 (Women) and 023 (MSM) vs TDF/TAF.

**Next generation radiopaque implants.**  
Implanted in non-dominant upper arm.

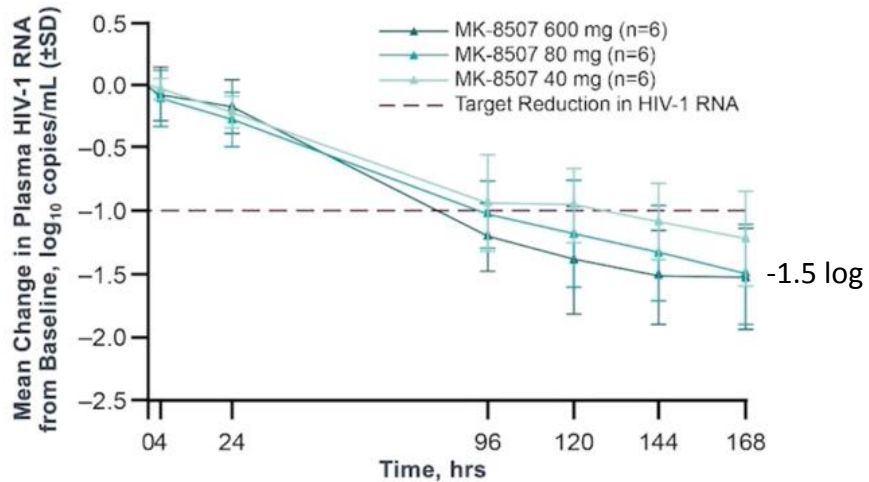


**56 mg reformulated implant projected to release adequate ISL-TP for >52 weeks**



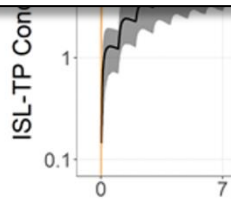
**Potential for once-yearly SC PrEP**

Se presenta en sociedad la pareja de Islatravir: MK-8507 (NNRTI).  $T_{1/2}$  70 hours (3 days).



**Gilead and Merck Announce Agreement to Jointly Develop and Commercialize Long-Acting, Investigational Treatment Combinations of Lenacapavir and Islatravir in HIV**

Mon, March 15, 2021, 11:45 AM · 11 min read



80 mg MK-8507 QW ~~X~~ probably taken forward + 20 mg QW ISL.



# An Env/Gag VLP mRNA vaccine induced significant protection from SHIV infection

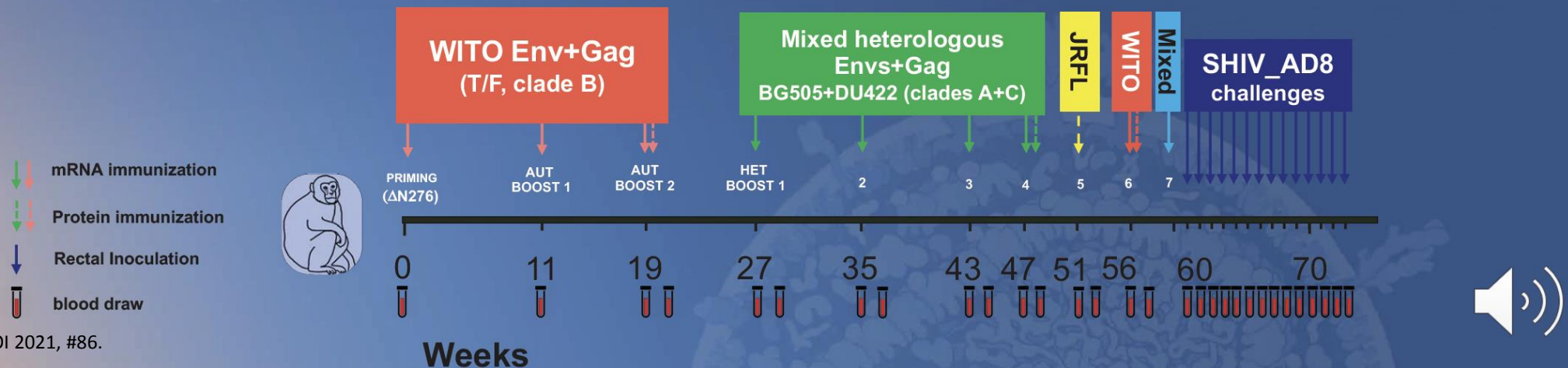
## Design of the Study

**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)

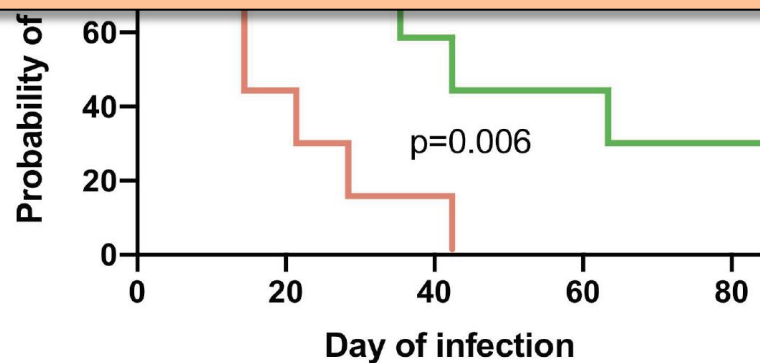
**Challenge:** *In vivo*-titrated SHIV-AD8, 13 weekly low-dose 10 TCID<sub>50</sub> by rectal inoculation



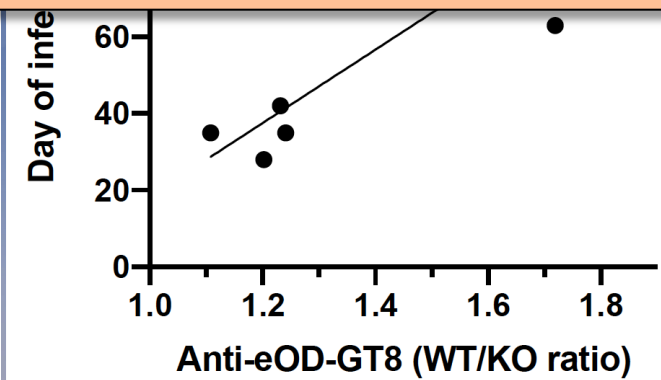
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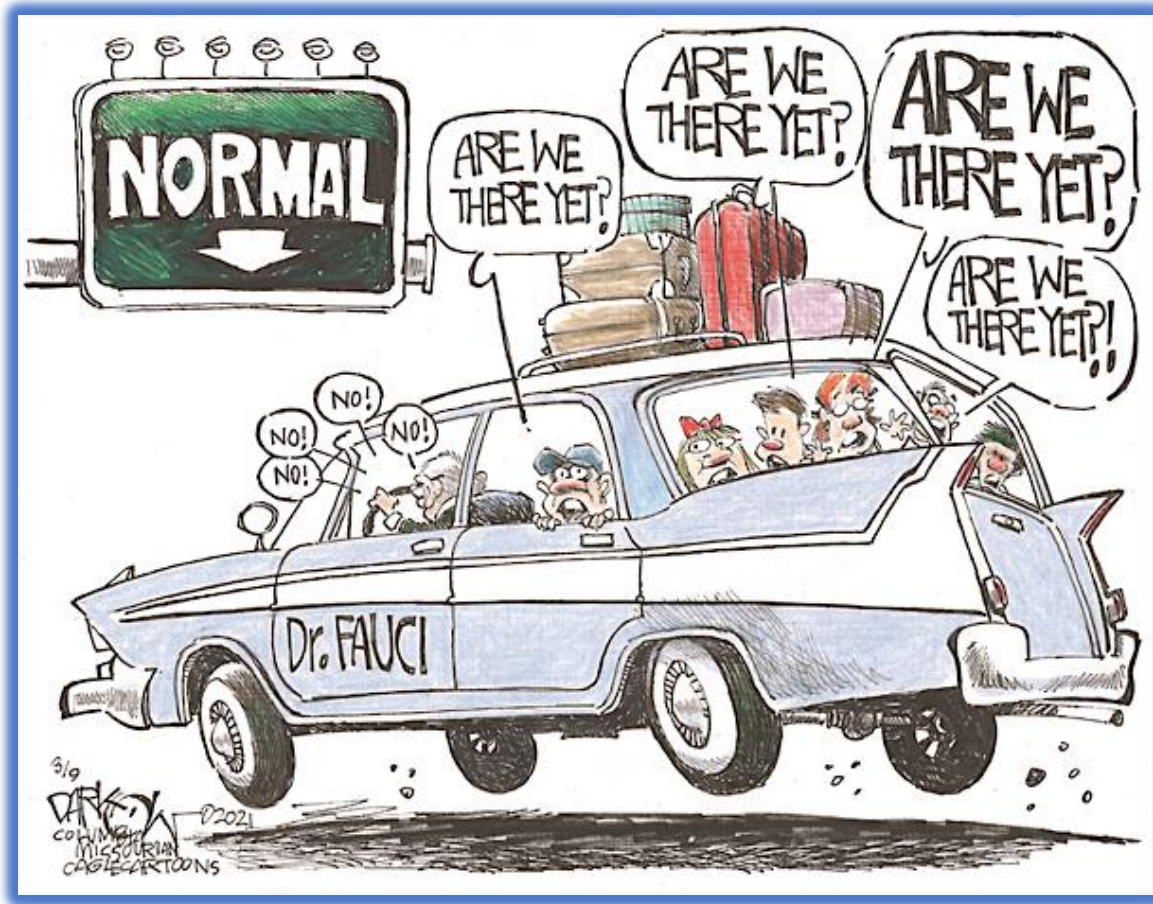
- Lipid nanoparticles that include small lengths of a nucleic acid that deliver instructions for making proteins.
- mRNA vaccines allow sustained *in vivo* expression of native endogenous proteins (identical to real-life infection) with no distracting epitopes.
- Early and strong induction of neutralizing Abs.

An Env/Gag VLP mRNA vaccine induced significant (but partial) protection from infection with a difficult-to-neutralize heterologous SHIV in macaques.



|                            | ratio | lower | upper | risk reduction | 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%   |





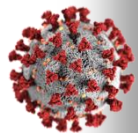
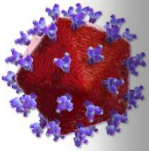


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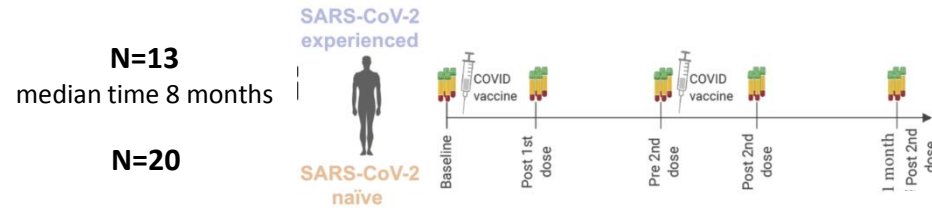
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7. **One dose mRNA vaccine sufficient in COVID-experienced.**
8. **Blaze-1: Bamlanivimab + etesivimab: significant improvement in mild-mod ambulatory COVID.**
9. **Bamlanivimab (& REG-2 cocktail) ↓ symptomatic COVID & faster viral clearance in PrEP/PEP.**
10. **Molnupiravir, oral: No culturable SARS-CoV-2 at 5 days.**

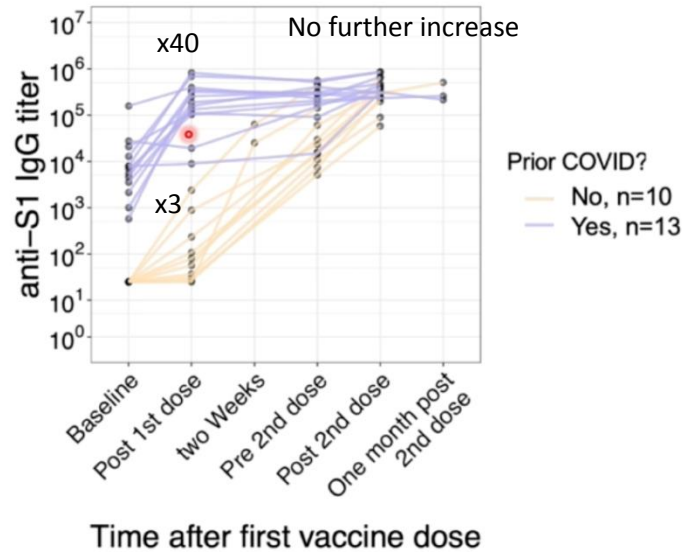


# One dose of mRNA vaccine sufficient in COVID-experienced (Pfizer/BNT). HCWs

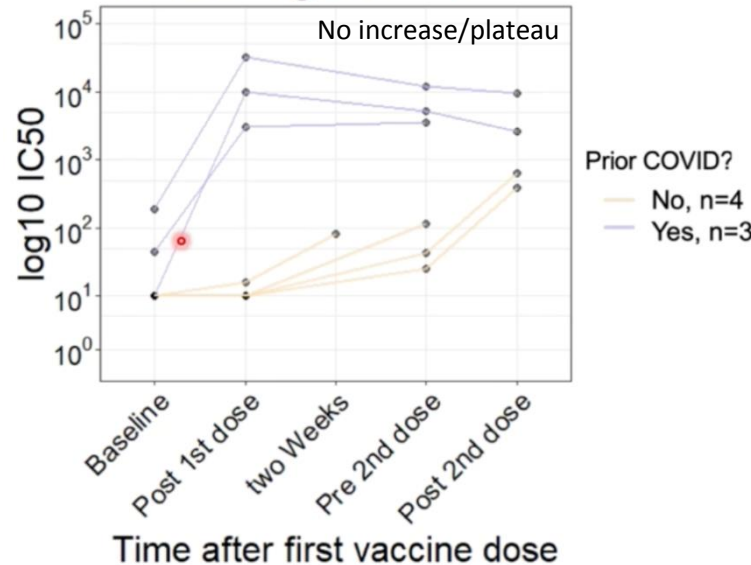
- Large scale RCTs excluded subjects with prior diagnosis of COVID.
- The magnitude, quality and durability of response to vaccination is unknown in subjects with prior SARS-CoV-2 infection.



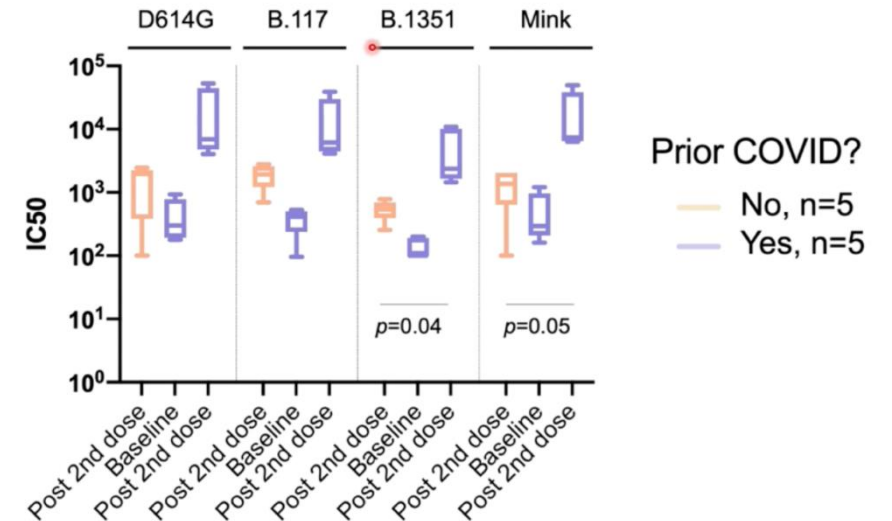
## ELISA for anti-S1 IgG antibodies



## Neutralizing antibodies



## Neutralizing titers against new variants



# One dose of mRNA vaccine sufficient in COVID-experienced (Pfizer/BNT). HCWs

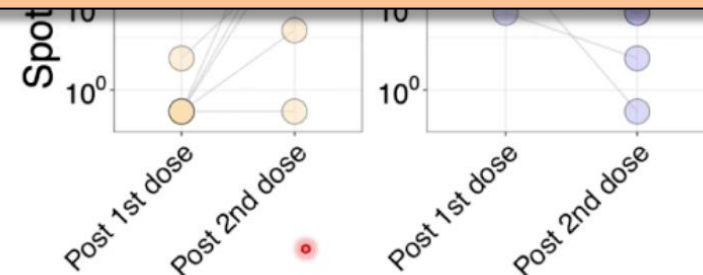
Cellular immune response: antigen-specific B-cell responses (ELISpot Assay).

More S1 antigen-specific Spot cells with 2<sup>ND</sup> dose in naives, but no increase (or decrease) in experienced.

**A single dose of mRNA vaccine in SARS-CoV-2 experienced subjects induced similar or higher Ab responses (total, neutralizing and avidity) than 2 doses in SARS-CoV-2 naive subjects.**

**Titers were not boosted by second dose.**

**Cellular immune responses after one dose showed a similar pattern.**



# Bamlanivimab + etesevimab in high-risk ambulatory COVID-19


- Fully human nmAb IgG1, binds to SARS-CoV-2 RBD (Spike).
- N=1035 Mild (77%)-mod (23%) COVID-19 <3 days of RT-PCR+ and  $\geq 1$  comorbidity. Median duration of symptoms: 4 days.

## VL decay vs pbo:


P = 0.70

 7000 mg (N = 101)

P = **0.02**

  2800 mg (N = 107)

P = 0.38

 700 mg (N = 101)

Placebo (N = 100)

### Bamlanivimab + Etesevimab

2800 mg + 2800 mg (N = 109)

Placebo (N = 56)

Primary Endpoint: Virology  
Population: Mild-to-Moderate COVID-19

Now Published



N Engl J Med  
2021 Jan 21;384(3):229-237

JAMA  
2021 Jan; Online ahead of print

## PHASE 3 PORTION (Higher Risk Population)

### Bamlanivimab + Etesevimab IV (1 hour infusion)

2800 mg + 2800 mg (N = 518)

Placebo (N = 517)

Presented  
Today

700 mg + 1400 mg (N ~ 500)

Placebo (N ~ 250)

Fully  
Enrolled

Primary Endpoint: Hospitalization or Death  
Through Day 29  
Population: Mild-to-Moderate COVID-19 with  
Risk Factor(s)

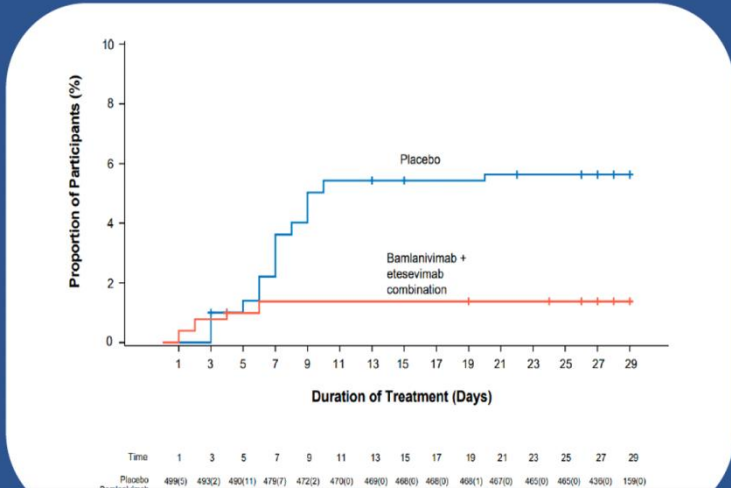
# Bamlanivimab + etesivimab in high-risk ambulatory COVID-19

## BLAZE-1 PHASE 3: PRIMARY ENDPOINT

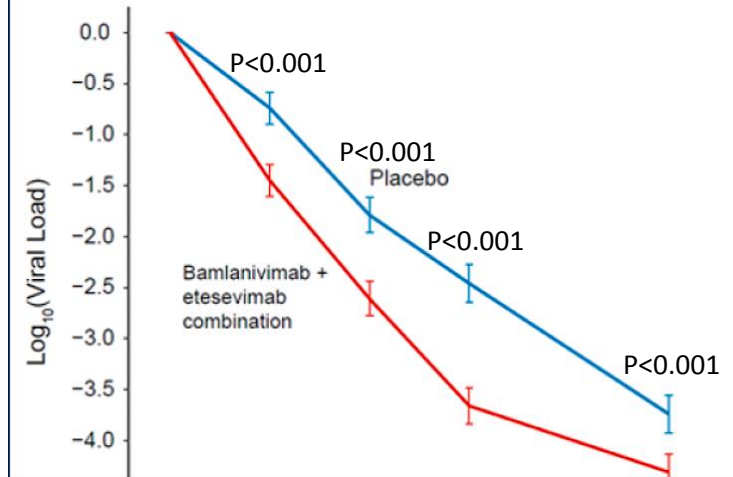
COVID-19 RELATED HOSPITALIZATION OR ANY-CAUSE DEATH BY DAY 29

| Treatment                                 | N   | Events | Rate | p      |
|---|-----|--------|------|--------|
| Placebo                                   | 517 | 36     | 7.0% | -      |
| Bamlanivimab 2800 mg + Etesevimab 2800 mg | 518 | 11     | 2.1% | 0.0004 |

70% reduction vs. placebo



## VIRAL LOAD CHANGE FROM BASELINE



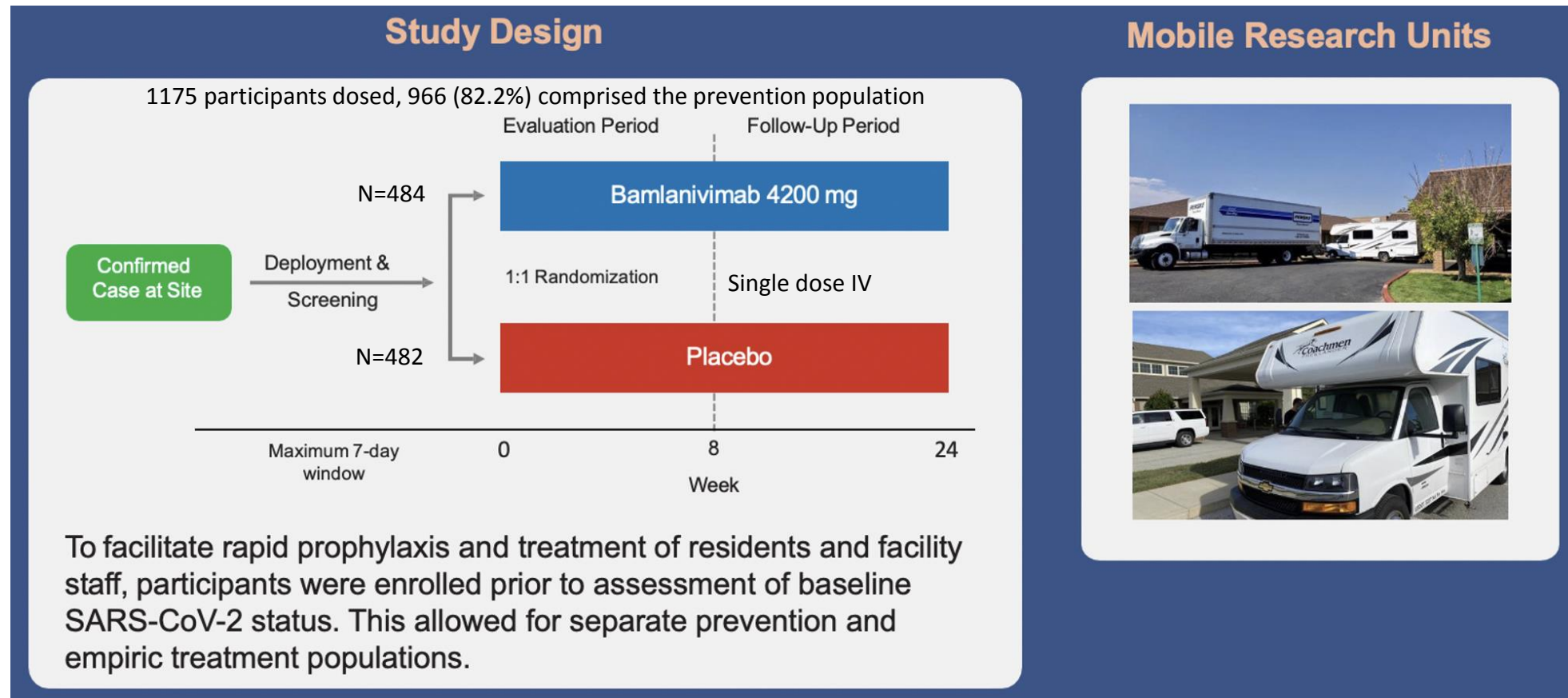
**BLAZE-1 confirms 70% reduction in hospitalization, significantly faster viral load decrease and symptom resolution in ambulatory mild-mod COVID with bamlanivimab + etesivimab.**

**No deaths (1.9% v 0)**

# BLAZE-2: Bamlanivimab in nursing-home settings reporting at least 1 COVID case.

- PREVENTION POPULATION: 966 participants negative at BL for SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR and serology (666 staff, 300 residents).
- Median age 52 y (residents 76 y). High-risk: 59% and 100.
- Primary endpoint:  $\geq$ mild COVID within 8 weeks.

In US nursing home residents: 5% of cases, 37% of deaths.



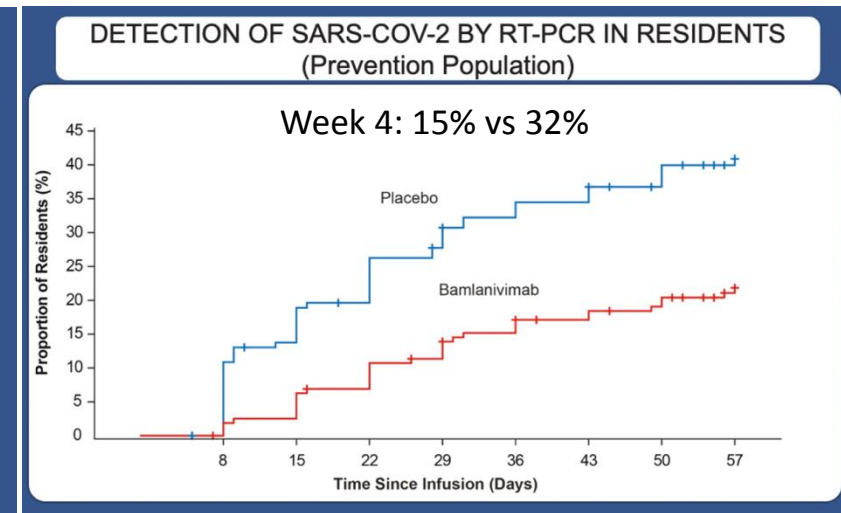
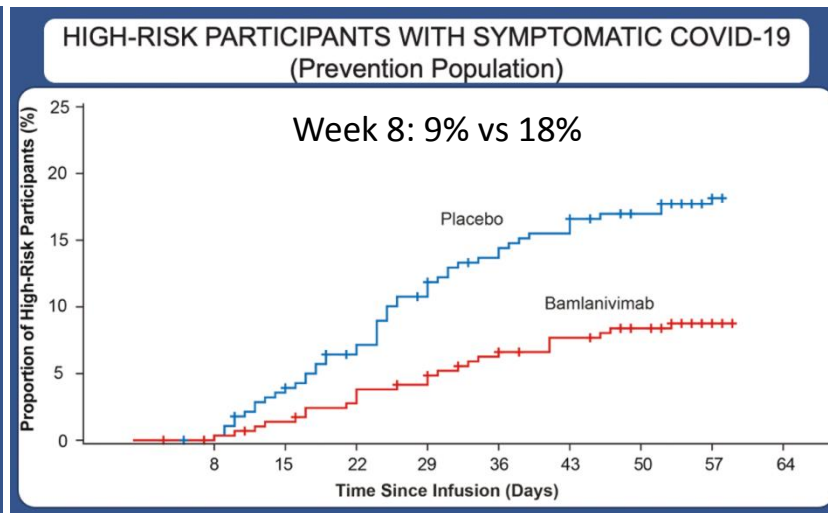
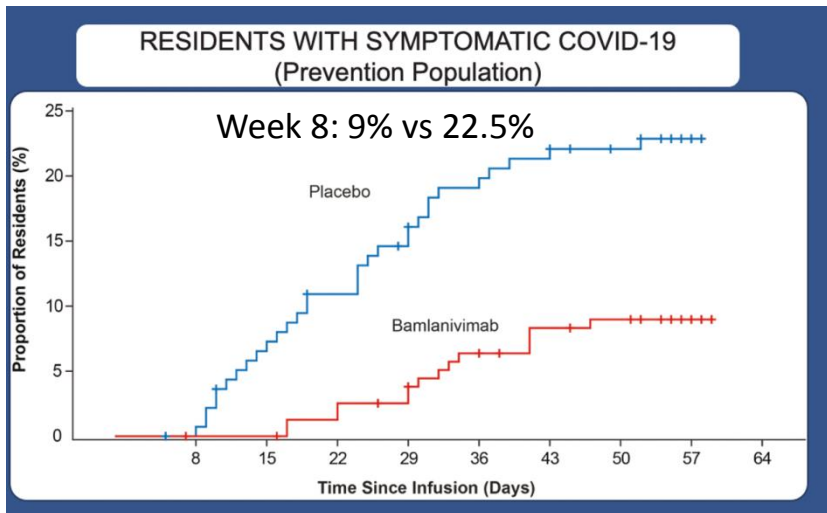
# BLAZE-2: Bamlanivimab in nursing-home settings reporting at least 1 COVID case.

OR 0.20, p<0.001; deaths 4 pbo vs 4 BAM

OR 0.28, p<0.001

Nasal swabs were collected at baseline and weekly through day 57

OR 0.24, p<0.001



80% reduction in risk, no deaths

72% reduction in risk

76% reduction in risk

**A single mAb (Bamlanivimab) PrEP significantly prevented COVID-19 and reduced progression in nursing facilities by 72-80%, with no deaths (4 vs 0). Those who acquired COVID-19 with bamlanivimb had lower viral loads and faster viral clearance (spread reduction).**




## mAbs for COVID-19 prevention in household contacts


**Similar results with phase 3 Casirivimab + Imdevimab mAb (REGEN-CoV cocktail, SC) in COVID PrEP in 409 household contacts (interim analysis): no symptomatic COVID and 50% reduction in PCR+ (low rates overall), strong impact on SARS-CoV-2 VLs.  
(REGN-COV2)**

- Passive immunization with a subcutaneous dose of the REGEN-COV antibody cocktail:

  
Prevented symptomatic infection in **100%** of cases

  
Reduced high viral load infection by **100%**

  
Reduced overall infection by **50%**

  
Decreased duration of viral RNA detection



Declaraciones polémicas

# Trump promete distribuir gratis un tratamiento experimental contra el covid

Pittsburgh  
(Pensilvania)

08 de octubre del  
2020. 10:39

El presidente afirma que haber pasado la enfermedad es "una bendición de Dios"

En un vídeo colgado en las redes, se compromete a poner a disposición de todos los estadounidenses y de forma gratuita el Regeneron



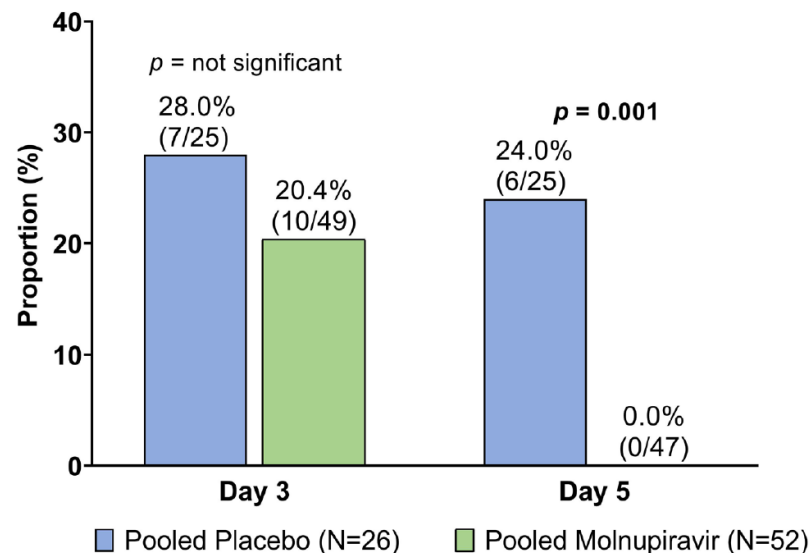
# Molnupiravir: Time to clearance of infectious SARS-COV-2. Phase 2 (dose-finding)

- Broad range *in-vitro* activity against all CoVs including SARS-CoV-2 REM-resistant mutants.
- Potent ribonucleoside analog: induces viral error catastrophe (Emory → Ridgeback → MSD).
- Activity proven in mouse and ferret models for Tx and PrEP with SARS-CoV-2.
- Favourable PK: ORAL. Safe in humans in phase 1.
- N=200 ambulatory symptomatic COVID <7 days.
- NP swabs collected at 3,5,7,14,28 days.
- Molnupiravir 200, 400 or 800 mg BIG x 5 d.

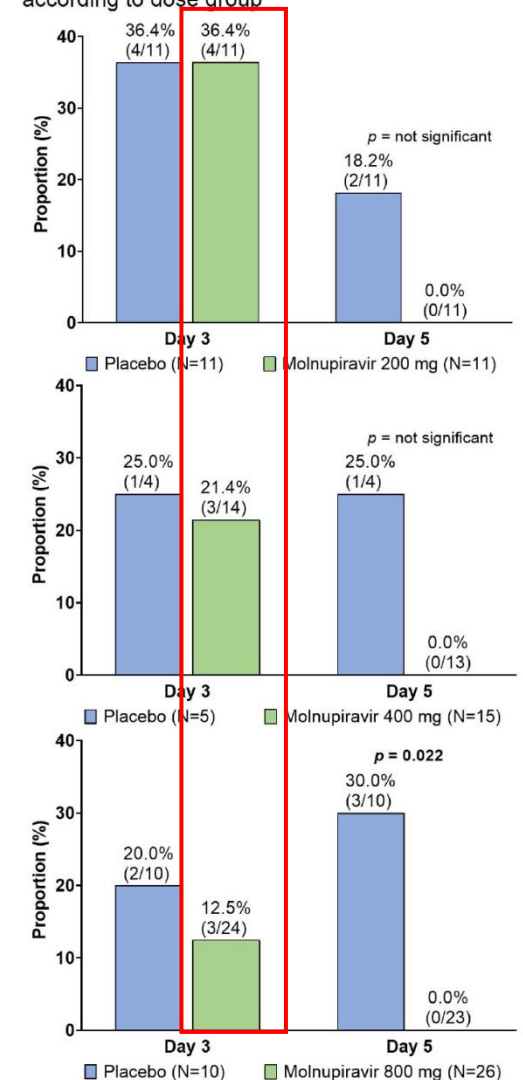
Of 182 subjects with evaluable swabs, 78 (43%) had positive baseline cultures.

- **No culturable SARS-CoV-2 at 5 days with any dose (n=47):** 200 mg (n=11), 400 mg (n=15) or 800 mg (n=26=).
- **SAFE** (author comment).
- Phase 3 studies underway

**Figure 1.** Proportion of overall participants with positive viral culture by RT-PCR (for participants positive at baseline)



**Figure 2.** Proportion of participants with positive viral culture by RT-PCR (for participants positive at baseline) according to dose group



**¡MUCHAS GRACIAS!**

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