**“The Lancet” Publication of PARTNERS Study**

**Media Monitoring – Consolidated Report (May 3-6, 2019)**

**Latest Published Study on HIV Treatment as Prevention Is Deja Vu All Over Again, But Some News Is So Good It Never Gets Old**

NEJM Journal Watch, 5/5  

Even if you’re not an ID or HIV specialist, there’s an excellent chance you’ve heard of the PARTNER2 study, just published in The Lancet.

If not, the title could not be more descriptive:

*Risk of HIV transmission through condomless sex in serodifferent gay couples with the HIV-positive partner taking suppressive antiretroviral therapy*

And, in case you’ve just awoken from a Rumpelstiltskin-length sleep, here are the results:

The risk is essentially zero.

This is far from the first time we’ve heard this information, either from this or other (HPTN 052, Opposites Attract) studies.

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**The end of AIDS? Drugs make virus ‘untransmittable’ with ZERO infections between partners during eight-year study**

Daily Mail, May 2, 2019 - William Cole  

HIV-suppressing medication can make the AIDS virus ‘untransmittable’ even among couples who have sex without condoms, new research showed today.

A Europe-wide study monitored nearly 1,000 gay male couples over eight years, where one partner was HIV-positive and receiving antiretroviral (ART) treatment, while the other was HIV negative.

Doctors did not find one single case of in-couple HIV transmission within that time.

This raises hopes that widespread ART programmes could eventually end new infections.

‘Our findings provide conclusive evidence for gay men that the risk of HIV transmission with suppressive ART is zero,’ said Alison Rodger, from University College London, who co-lead the research published in The Lancet.

‘They support the message... that an undetectable viral load makes HIV untransmittable. This powerful message can help end the HIV pandemic by preventing HIV transmission, and tackling the stigma and discrimination that many people with HIV face.’
The study alone, the researchers estimate, helped to prevent around 472 HIV transmissions during the eight years.

+++ Aids breakthrough as study finds drugs stop HIV transmission
Financial Times, May 3, 2019 - Sarah Neville
https://www.ft.com/content/f990e676-6d79-11e9-80c7-60ee53e6681d

Treatment with antiretroviral drugs reduced the risk of sexual transmission of the virus that causes AIDS to zero, a groundbreaking study of nearly 1,000 gay male couples showed.

The finding has been hailed as signalling a prospective end to the AIDS pandemic, suggesting the disease, which has killed more than 35m people since it was first identified in the early 1980s, can no longer be passed on through unprotected sexual contact provided the infected partner is taking medicine to suppress HIV.

The researchers said their results provided a similar level of evidence on viral suppression and HIV transmission risk for gay men to that previously generated for heterosexual couples, and suggested that the risk of HIV transmission in gay couples through condomless sex when the viral load is suppressed by the drugs is effectively zero.

The observational study, which is the largest of its kind and published in The Lancet, provides “conclusive evidence” that proper antiretroviral treatment will ensure the virus is “untransmittable”, the researchers said.

+++ AIDS drugs prevent sexual transmission of HIV in gay men
Reuters US News, May 2, 2019 - Kate Kelland

A European study of nearly 1,000 gay male couples who had sex without condoms – where one partner had HIV and was taking antiretroviral drugs to suppress it - has found the treatment can prevent sexual transmission of the virus.

After eight years of follow-up of the so-called serodifferent couples, the study found no cases at all of HIV transmission within couples.

The study proves, the researchers said, that using antiretroviral therapy to suppress the AIDS virus to undetectable levels also means it cannot be passed on via sex, the researchers said.

+++ 'Zero' risk of HIV transmission in gay men receiving treatment, study says
CNN-US, May 3, 2019 - Eliza Mackintosh
The risk of passing on the HIV virus is completely eliminated by effective drugs treatment, a landmark study has shown, in a significant boost to the prospects of ending the AIDS pandemic.

A study of nearly 1,000 gay male couples, where one partner with HIV took antiretroviral therapy (ART), found that no new cases of transmission to the HIV-negative partner during sex without a condom.

Over the course of the eight-year study, 15 men were infected with HIV, the virus which causes AIDS. But genetic tests showed the transmissions were a result of the HIV-negative men having sexual relations with someone other than their regular partner.

+++ PARTNER2: ART prevents HIV transmission among gay couples
Infectious Disease News – Healio, May 3, 2019 - Caitlyn Stulpin
https://www.healio.com/infectious-disease/hiv-aids/news/online/%7B1bb34aa2-9733-4c94-8934-9b8e0145adf1%7D/partner2-art-prevents-hiv-transmission-among-gay-couples

Researchers found no cases of HIV transmission among almost 800 serodiscordant gay male couples who engaged in condomless sex while the HIV-positive partners was virally suppressed on ART and the HIV-negative partner did not report using preventative medication, according to results from the second phase of the PARTNER study published in The Lancet.

“This study provides conclusive evidence that the risk of HIV transmission through anal sex when HIV viral load is suppressed is effectively zero. This means that HIV-positive gay men on suppressive therapy are sexually noninfectious, which supports the ‘Undetectable = Untransmittable’ message,” Alison J. Rodger, MD, professor of infectious diseases at University College London, told Infectious Disease News.

“The results will challenge stigma and discrimination and have a positive impact on quality of life of HIV-positive people. They also challenge criminalization laws that continue to impact heavily on HIV-positive people for assumptions of risk that this study disproves.”

+++ PARTNER HIV Studies: 'Catalyst for Universal Test-and-Treat'
https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/hivaids/79603

There is effectively zero risk of gay men transmitting HIV through sex if the virus is completely suppressed, according to newly published results from the landmark PARTNER2 study.

From 2014 to 2017, the study examined data from 782 gay couples who reported around 77,000 condomless sex acts, and found no HIV transmission from virally suppressed (viral load <200 copies/mL) HIV-positive partners to HIV-negative partners -- meaning the risk of HIV transmission was effectively zero, reported Alison J. Rodger, MD, of University College London in England, and colleagues.

While 288 of 777 HIV-negative men reported condomless sex with other partners, and 15 new HIV infections occurred during the follow-up period -- importantly, none were phylogenetically linked.
within-couple transmission. This amounted to an HIV transmission rate of precisely zero, albeit with an upper 95% confidence-interval limit of 0.23 per 100 couple-years, the authors wrote.

The study was published Thursday in The Lancet; results had also been presented last July at the International AIDS Conference in Amsterdam.

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UNAIDS welcomes additional evidence that effective antiretroviral therapy stops transmission of HIV
UNAIDS (Press release), May 3, 2019

UNAIDS warmly welcomes the PARTNER2 study results that show that HIV transmission does not occur when a person living with HIV is on effective antiretroviral therapy. The study, which enrolled nearly 1000 gay couples in which one partner was living with HIV and the other was not, showed that where the person living with HIV was taking effective antiretroviral therapy and had a suppressed viral load, there was no HIV transmission within the couple.

“This is excellent news. People living with HIV now have confirmation that provided they take treatment regularly and are virally suppressed, they are not infectious,” said Michel Sidibé, Executive Director of UNAIDS. “This gives a strong, positive message that will help to reduce the stigma around HIV and improve the self-esteem and self-confidence of people living with HIV.”

By the end of the eight-year study, 15 people did become infected with HIV. Virus screening showed that none of the new infections were linked to the HIV-positive partners in the study, but came from a sexual partner outside of the couple. The researchers estimate that within the study, which took place across 14 European countries, around 472 HIV transmissions were averted over the eight years.

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HIV BREAKTHROUGH End to HIV ‘could be in sight’ as drugs STOP spread via unprotected sex
The Sun, May 3, 2019 – Gemma Mullin
https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/8994387/hive-end-in-sight-drugs-stop-spread/

SCIENTISTS say an end to HIV “could be in sight” after drugs stopped the spread via unprotected sex, a new study found.

Researchers tested 1,000 gay male couples - one partner who was HIV positive and taking antiretroviral drugs to suppress the virus and the other HIV negative.

They found no cases of transmission over the entire eight year time frame the participants were monitored.

Experts said the results were a "powerful message" that should be spread widely.

Professor Alison Rodger, from University College London, who co-led the research, said: "Our findings provide conclusive evidence for gay men that the risk of HIV transmission with suppressive ART (antiretroviral therapy) is zero.
"This powerful message can help end the HIV pandemic by preventing HIV transmission, and tackling the stigma and discrimination that many people with HIV face.

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**Treatment prevents sexual HIV transmission among gay men: study**
Yahoo World, May 2, 2019 - AFP

HIV-suppressing medication can make the AIDS virus "untransmittable" even among couples who have sex without using condoms, new research showed Friday.

The Europe-wide study monitored nearly 1,000 gay male couples over a period of eight years, where one partner was HIV-positive and receiving antiretroviral (ART) treatment, while the other was HIV negative.

Doctors did not find a single case of in-couple HIV transmission within that time, raising hopes that widespread ART programmes could eventually end new infections.

"Our findings provide conclusive evidence for gay men that the risk of HIV transmission with suppressive ART is zero," said Alison Rodger, from University College London, who co-lead the research published in The Lancet.

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**End to Aids in sight as huge study finds drugs stop HIV transmission**
The Guardian, May 2, 2019 - Sarah Boseley and Hannah Devlin
[https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/may/02/end-to-aids-in-sight-as-huge-study-finds-drugs-stop-hiv-transmission](https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/may/02/end-to-aids-in-sight-as-huge-study-finds-drugs-stop-hiv-transmission)

An end to the Aids epidemic could be in sight after a landmark study found men whose HIV infection was fully suppressed by antiretroviral drugs had no chance of infecting their partner.

The success of the medicine means that if everyone with HIV were fully treated, there would be no further infections.

Among nearly 1,000 male couples across Europe where one partner with HIV was receiving treatment to suppress the virus, there were no cases of transmission of the infection to the HIV-negative partner during sex without a condom. Although 15 men were infected with HIV during the eight-year study, DNA testing proved that was through sex with someone other than their partner who was not on treatment.

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**Aids breakthrough as study finds drugs prevent transmission of HIV virus**
The Independent, May 2, 2019 - Tom Barnes
[https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/hiv-aids-drugs-transmission-prevent-cure-study-lancet-a8897441.html](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/hiv-aids-drugs-transmission-prevent-cure-study-lancet-a8897441.html)
Scientists may have made a major breakthrough in the fight against Aids after a study found treatment can prevent sexual transmission of the virus.

Research involving more than 1,000 male couples across Europe where one partner was HIV positive and receiving antiretroviral therapy found no cases of transmission over the space of eight years.

The study proves, the researchers said, that using antiretroviral therapy to suppress the Aids virus to undetectable levels also means it cannot be passed on via sex.

Findings of the study give scientists hope that by preventing the spread of HIV through treatment, the virus can one day be eliminated.

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HIV cannot be sexually transmitted if positive partner is undergoing effective treatment, scientists say

The Telegraph, May 2, 2019 - Gareth Davies

https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/05/03/hiv-cannot-sexually-transmitted-positive-partner-undergoing/

People with HIV who are undergoing effective treatment cannot pass on the virus through sex, scientists have said, claiming the end of the pandemic could be in sight.

Researchers tested 1,000 gay male couples - one HIV positive and taking antiretroviral drugs to suppress the virus and the other HIV negative - and found no cases of transmission over eight years.

Experts said the results were a "powerful message" that should be shared widely.

Dr Michael Brady, medical director at HIV charity Terrence Higgins Trust, said it was "impossible to overstate the importance of these findings".

"The study has given us the confidence to say, without doubt, that people living with HIV who are on effective treatment cannot pass the virus on to their sexual partners.

"This has incredible impact on the lives of people living with HIV and is a powerful message to address HIV-related stigma."

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Gay HIV transmission with treatment is 'zero risk', study confirms

BBC News, May 3, 2019


A study of nearly 1,000 gay male couples in The Lancet found no cases of HIV transmission over eight years.

This was due to treatment reducing the virus to very low levels in the body.

"Undetectable equals untransmittable" should be basic HIV knowledge for everyone, experts said.
The European study followed 972 gay male couples - where one was living with HIV and taking antiretroviral therapy (ART) and the other was HIV negative - over eight years, from 2010-2017.

There were no cases of HIV being passed within the couples over that time.

And the researchers say that around 472 cases of HIV are likely to have been prevented.

In total, the couples reported having anal sex without condoms a total of 76,088 times.

Although 15 men did become infected with HIV during the study, genetic testing showed that none of the viruses came from their main partner.

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HIV Meds Cut Transmission Risk to Zero, Even Without Condoms: Study
HealthDay News, May 2, 2019 - Alan Mozes

Even if they never use a condom during sex, gay men whose HIV is undetectable due to ongoing antiretroviral treatment cannot infect their male partner, new research reveals.

"Whether men who are in monogamous relationships in these circumstances chose to use or not to use condoms is up to them, but there is no need to do so to prevent HIV transmission to the negative partner," said the new study's lead author, Dr. Alison Rodger. She's a professor of infectious diseases with the Institute for Global Health at University College London in England.

Rodger said the study provides "conclusive evidence" that the risk of transmission through sex is zero when virus levels are fully suppressed by antiretroviral therapy (ART). An earlier phase of the study proved the same was true for heterosexual couples.

The finding -- from the largest investigation of its kind -- lends support to a public health campaign launched in 2016 by more than 850 HIV organizations in 96 countries. Known as the "U=U Campaign," it stands for "undetectable equals untransmittable."

The new study, published May 2 in the online edition of The Lancet, spanned 14 countries and eight years. It included nearly 1,000 gay couples, each with one HIV-positive man and one without the virus.

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Ends of AIDS in sight as HIV-suppressing drugs succeed in making the virus ‘untransmittable’
National Health Executive, May 3, 2019 -

HIV-suppressing drugs can now make the AIDS virus “untransmittable” even to sexual partners, and could lead to an end to the entire epidemic, a landmark study has found.

In a study of nearly 1,000 gay male couples across Europe where one partner with HIV was receiving treatment to suppress the virus, there were no cases of HIV transmission over eight years.
Antiretroviral (ART) treatment was able to reduce the virus to very low levels in the body and the research, published in The Lancet, said that if everyone with the HIV virus were fully treated then there would be no further infections.

Professor Alison Rodger from the University College London, the co-leader of the paper, declared: “It’s brilliant – fantastic. This very much puts this issue to bed.”

“Our findings provide conclusive evidence for gay men that the risk of HIV transmission with suppressive ART is zero. Our findings support the message of the international U=U campaign that an undetectable viral load makes HIV untransmittable.”

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AIDS Drugs Prevent Gay Men From Transmitting HIV Virus, Researchers Say 
Newsweek, May 3, 2019 - Scott McDonald

Researchers in Europe believe to have discovered a way to prevent the HIV virus spreading among gay men, according to a Reuters report Thursday night. This could be the biggest pathway to preventing the virus, and possibly leading to an eventual cure of AIDS, the report states.

A study involving 1,000 gay couples, where one partner had the HIV virus and was taking a suppression drug to treat it, didn't pass the virus along to their partner while having sex without a condom.

A study that lasted eight years tracked serodifferent couples—where one person has the HIV virus and the other is HIV-negative—and found that the person infected with HIV but taking antiretroviral drugs did not infect the partner who was HIV-negative.

Researchers claim the antiretroviral drugs suppress the virus to such low levels in the body that the virus can’t be passed on to another person.

University College London professor Alison Rodger, who co-led the research, said the results of their study show there is zero transmission when the drug is taken properly.

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End to Aids is near as huge study finds anti-HIV drugs stop transmission
Metro.co.uk, May 3, 2019
https://metro.co.uk/2019/05/03/end-aids-near-huge-study-finds-anti-hiv-drugs-stop-transmission-9395758/

Anti-HIV drugs have stopped the virus spreading even in couples who have sex without condoms, new research has found. A study of nearly 1,000 gay male couples, where one partner had HIV and was taking antiretroviral drugs to suppress it, found no cases of transmission over eight years. Experts said the results were a ‘powerful message’ that should be spread widely. ‘Our findings provide conclusive evidence for gay men that the risk of HIV transmission with suppressive ART (antiretroviral therapy) is zero,’ said Professor Alison Rodger, from University College London. ‘This
powerful message can help end the HIV pandemic by preventing HIV transmission, and tackling the stigma and discrimination that many people with HIV face,’ she added.

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**Scientists made a huge leap towards eliminating HIV after an 8-year study of a new drug found 'effectively zero' risk of transmitting the virus**  
Business Insider, May 3, 2019 - Bill Bostock  

Scientists registered a huge step forward toward stopping the spread of HIV after a study showed over 750 gay men on an anti-viral treatment did not transmit the virus to their partners.

The PARTNER study, published in The Lancet medical journal on Thursday, surveyed 782 gay couples across 14 European countries who were having regular unprotected anal sex between 2010 and 2017.

In each case one partner had HIV and was taking anti-retroviral pills, and one was free of the virus. None of the partners without HIV contracted it, despite 76,088 reports of unprotected intercourse.

The study's results show the drugs have lowered the virus to undetectable levels in the blood, which means HIV cannot be passed on via sexual intercourse.

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**Landmark HIV Study Finds That Treatment Lowers Virus Spread To Near Zero**  
HuffPost US, 5/3 – Lydia O'Connor  
[https://www.huffingtonpost.in/entry/hiv-study-retroviral-drugs_n_5ccc7379e4b0d1239552c83e](https://www.huffingtonpost.in/entry/hiv-study-retroviral-drugs_n_5ccc7379e4b0d1239552c83e)

A groundbreaking new HIV study has found that there is “effectively zero” chance for people receiving antiretroviral treatment to spread the virus that causes AIDS, which is still linked to around 1 million deaths globally every year.

Researchers involved in the massive study, published in the medical journal The Lancet, believe this could be the definitive study on whether current antiretroviral drugs are effective at stopping HIV.

“Our findings provide conclusive evidence that the risk of HIV transmission through anal sex when HIV viral load is suppressed is effectively zero,” the study authors wrote, noting that transmission through anal sex is one of the most efficient ways for the virus to travel between partners.

The research studied around 1,000 male couples across Europe in which one partner was HIV-positive and receiving treatment with antiretroviral drugs. Over the course of eight years, there was not a single case in which an HIV-positive patient in the study transmitted the virus to their partner.

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**Study proves that HIV transmission can be eliminated, increasing hopes to an end to AIDS**  
A landmark study has shown that the risk of passing HIV is nonexistent when the virus is suppressed by effective anti-retroviral treatment, signaling that an end to the disease that has killed 35 million people worldwide is nearer.

Nearly 1,000 male couples of mixed-HIV status from 14 countries in Europe participated in the study, which lasted eight years. With each couple, one partner was HIV-negative, while the other was positive, but undergoing a successful ART regime.

During the course of the study, which was called PARTNER2, the couples had unprotected sex, but because of the virus-suppressant treatment, there were no cases of transmission. Fifteen men did become infected during the course of the study, but further testing determined that their infection had been the result of sexual relationships with someone other than their partner.

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**Breakthrough Treatment Stops Transmission Of HIV Through Sex, Study Says**

CBS New York, 5/3

[https://newyork.cbslocal.com/2019/05/03/treatment-stops-transmission-hiv/](https://newyork.cbslocal.com/2019/05/03/treatment-stops-transmission-hiv/)

According to a new study, published in the medical journal The Lancet, a treatment of anti-retroviral drugs have prevented HIV transmission among gay men during unprotected sex.

Over an eight-year period, researchers monitored 1,000 gay male couples in which one partner was HIV positive.

The study found that there were no new transmissions of the disease to the HIV negative partner during sex.

The treatment, known as antiretroviral therapy (ART), reportedly reduced the transmission of the virus by 96 percent.

“It has taken considerable time and massive effort to prove that antiretroviral drugs can prevent HIV through treatment or as PrEP,” researchers said in a press release on the study.

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**Experts confident that AIDS will be cured by 2020**

International Business Times, 5/5 – Nirmal Narayanan


A new study has confirmed that the cure to AIDS is closer than previously speculated. During the study, researchers found that a drug can stop HIV from transmitting, and it is considered a milestone discovery in the journey to control this dreaded disease.

The new study was conducted by researchers at the University of London. During the study, researchers analyzed the health data of 1000 male couples in Europe where one partner had HIV.

The study lasted for more than eight years, and researchers found that HIV positive patients were using antiretroviral therapy to suppress the AIDS virus did not transmit the pathogens. The research
report published in the journal Lancet revealed that this is a piece of conclusive evidence that proves the effectiveness of antiretroviral therapy in making the virus untransmittable.

+++ Antiretroviral Treatments Suppress HIV Transmission
The Scientist, 5/3 – Chia-Yi Hou
https://www.the-scientist.com/news-opinion/antiretroviral-treatments-suppress-hiv-transmission-65834

In a study published yesterday (May 2) in The Lancet, researchers report that out of 782 gay male couples where one individual was HIV positive and receiving antiretroviral treatment, there was no HIV transmission to the HIV-negative partner from unprotected sex. “The risk of HIV transmission in gay couples through condomless sex when HIV viral load is suppressed is effectively zero,” the authors write in their report.

A previous study reported 96 percent reduction of HIV transmission in heterosexual couples in which HIV-positive individuals were treated with antiretroviral drugs. That study only included a small number of men who have sex with men.

The PARTNER study reported in The Lancet study was conducted in two phases: PARTNER1 recruited heterosexual and gay couples that had serodifferent partners, where one person in the couple was HIV-positive and taking antiretroviral treatment (ART). PARTNER2 only recruited gay male couples that were serodifferent. The researchers followed up with the volunteers for a median of two years, during which they reported if they had sex without a condom. Although 15 of the HIV-negative men did acquire HIV during the study, scientists confirm in the report that genetic testing showed that the viruses were different strains contracted from other sexual partners.

+++ BRIEF: Antiretroviral Drugs Completely Prevent HIV Transmission In Study That Advocates Say Sends 'Powerful Message'
KHN Morning Briefing, 5/6
https://khn.org/morning-breakout/antiretroviral-drugs-completely-prevent-hiv-transmission-in-study-that-advocates-say-sends-powerful-message/

"Our findings provide conclusive evidence for gay men that the risk of HIV transmission with suppressive ART is zero," said Alison Rodger, a professor at University College London who co-led the research.

+++ HIV-suppressing drug can stop virus being sexually transmitted, study finds

Scientists say an end to the "HIV pandemic" could be in sight after a study found that effective treatment can prevent sexual transmission of the virus.
Researchers tested 1,000 gay male couples - one HIV positive and taking antiretroviral drugs to suppress the virus and the other HIV negative - and found no cases of transmission over eight years.

Experts said the results were a "powerful message" that should be spread widely.

"Our findings provide conclusive evidence for gay men that the risk of HIV transmission with suppressive ART (antiretroviral therapy) is zero," said Professor Alison Rodger, from University College London, who co-led the research.

"This powerful message can help end the HIV pandemic by preventing HIV transmission, and tackling the stigma and discrimination that many people with HIV face," she added.

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HIV breakthrough as treatment eliminates transmission risk
Sky News, May 3, 2019

People who are HIV positive and whose virus is fully suppressed through medication do not spread it when they have sex, a study has found.

It means an end to the HIV pandemic could be in sight.

Scientists studied 1,000 gay male couples - one HIV positive and taking antiretroviral drugs to suppress the virus, and the other HIV negative.

Over the course of eight years, the virus was not transmitted once. This

Professor Alison Rodger from University College London, who co-led the research, said the study provided "conclusive evidence for gay men that the risk of HIV transmission with suppressive ART (antiretroviral therapy) is zero".

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HIV-suppressing drug can stop virus being transmitted, study says
BT.com, May 3, 2019

Scientists say an end to the “HIV pandemic” could be in sight after a study found that effective treatment can prevent sexual transmission of the virus.

Researchers tested 1,000 gay male couples – one HIV positive and taking antiretroviral drugs to suppress the virus and the other HIV negative – and found no cases of transmission over eight years.

Experts said the results were a “powerful message” that should be spread widely.

“Our findings provide conclusive evidence for gay men that the risk of HIV transmission with suppressive ART (antiretroviral therapy) is zero,” said Professor Alison Rodger, from University College London, who co-led the research.
“This powerful message can help end the HIV pandemic by preventing HIV transmission, and tackling the stigma and discrimination that many people with HIV face,” she added.

“Increased efforts must now focus on wider dissemination of this powerful message and ensuring that all HIV-positive people have access to testing, effective treatment, adherence support and linkage to care.”

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SCIENTISTS DEVELOP 100 PERCENT EFFECTIVE TREATMENT FOR HIV, ACCORDING TO STUDY
The Daily Caller, May 3, 2019 - Grace Carr
https://dailycaller.com/2019/05/03/scientists-treatment-hiv-study/

Scientists reported that an antiretroviral drug prevented the spread of HIV in 1,000 sexually active homosexual couples, according to an eight-year study conducted in Europe.

The authors published their findings in the Lancet medical journal Thursday, Reuters reported. Researchers followed 1,000 couples, each composed of one HIV-positive partner and one HIV-negative partner. The couples were sexually active and did not use condoms during intercourse, according to the researchers. Despite a lack of protection, none of the HIV-negative men reportedly contracted HIV.

The HIV-positive men underwent antiretroviral therapy to suppress the AIDS virus, allowing them to engage in intercourse without transmitting the virus.

HIV is a virus spread through bodily fluids that attacks the immune system, specifically CD4 cells, according to HIV.gov. Over time, the virus renders the body unable to fend off infections and disease. HIV is largely spread through sexual intercourse and shared syringe use. Mothers can, however, spread the virus to their babies by breast-feeding.

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HIV-suppressing drugs prevent transmission of AIDS virus: Study
Aljazeera.com, May 3, 2019

HIV-suppressing medication can make the AIDS virus "untransmittable" even among couples who have sex without using condoms, new research shows.

The Europe-wide study monitored nearly 1,000 gay male couples over a period of eight years, where one partner was HIV-positive and receiving antiretroviral (ART) treatment, while the other was HIV-negative.

Doctors did not find a single case of in-couple HIV transmission within that time, raising hopes that widespread ART programmes could eventually end new infections.

Bill Gates on ending disease, saving lives: 'Time is on our side'
"Our findings provide conclusive evidence for gay men that the risk of HIV transmission with suppressive ART is zero," said Alison Rodger from the University College London, one of the authors of the research published in the Lancet.
If you have HIV, but your viral load tests show that the virus is undetectable, you can’t transmit it to other people. That fact is the basis of the “U=U” awareness campaign, and it was just further confirmed in a new study.

“The question has been definitively answered, there is no need for further research. It’s not often we get to say that,” Alison Rodger, one of the authors, told CNN.

The new study followed 782 couples, where both partners were men, one with HIV and one without. The partners with HIV were taking antiretroviral medication to keep their viral levels suppressed (undetectable or at extremely low levels). Over the course of the study, which included nearly 77,000 instances of condomless anal sex, no one contracted HIV from their partner.

This builds on previous research that was done mainly in heterosexual couples. The virus is more likely to be transmitted during anal sex than vaginal sex, so it was important to confirm that HIV treatment can still be considered effective prevention even in gay couples.

A study conducted in Europe consisting of almost 1,000 gay male couples found that antiretroviral therapy is effective in suppressing and preventing sexual transmission of HIV. The study followed couples in which one partner had HIV and was taking ART who did not use condoms during sexual encounters, according to data reported in the journal The Lancet. - Reuters (5/3)

Effective HIV treatment means the virus is not sexually transmitted between gay men during unprotected sex where one partner is HIV-positive, according to research. A European study of nearly 1,000 gay male couples who had sex without using condoms – where one partner was HIV-positive and on suppressive antiretroviral therapy (ART) and the other HIV-negative – reports no cases of “within-couple” HIV transmission over eight years. During that time-frame 15 HIV-negative men became infected with HIV, but none of the viruses screened in the newly infected partner was genetically linked to the HIV virus that had infected their main partners – ruling out any within-couple HIV transmissions, the research team said.
AIDS Study Finds Drugs To Prevent HIV Transmission, Claims There’s An End To The Epidemic In Sight
The Inquisitr News, May 3, 2019

A landmark study recently found that all HIV-positive participants who received treatment of fully-suppressing antiretroviral drugs had zero risk of passing along the virus to their partner, potentially putting an end to the AIDS epidemic, reported The Guardian.

The study, published in the medical journal The Lancet, followed 1,000 HIV-positive gay males over the course of eight years. By the end of the study, there was not a single case in which the HIV-positive partner receiving treatment passed along the virus to their partner, even without using a condom. Earlier studies have shown that the same treatment has the same effects on heterosexual couples in which one partner is infected with the virus.

University College London researcher Alison Rodger, who is credited as co-lead author on the new study, commented on how promising the results of the study were and on their implications for the AIDS epidemic moving forward.

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Anti-HIV Drugs Confirmed To Stop Transmission Between Gay Partners
The Huffington Post (United Kingdom), May 3, 2019 - Sophie Gallagher
https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/anti-hiv-drugs-confirmed-to-stop-transmission-in-gay-men_uk_5ccbf842e4b0548b73580284?utm_hp_ref=uk-health&guccounter=1

Taking anti-HIV drugs stops men passing the virus between sexual partners, a study has found, after looking at evidence from nearly 1000 gay male couples.

The study of 972 couples found no cases of HIV transmission over the eight years the research took place, despite the couples in the study having unprotected anal sex (without condoms) a total of 76,088 times. This was due to treatment reducing the virus to very low levels in the body.

It has been known for several years that an “undetectable” viral load means that HIV is not transmittable. But these new findings, published in The Lancet, have been called a “powerful message” which needs to be spread more widely in the general public.

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Drug treatment stopped transmission of HIV in gay couples, study finds
CBC News - Canada, May 2, 2019

A European study of nearly 1,000 gay male couples who had sex without condoms — where one partner had HIV and was taking antiretroviral drugs to suppress it — has found the treatment can prevent sexual transmission of the virus.

After eight years of follow-up of the so-called serodifferent couples, the study found no cases at all of HIV transmission within couples.
The study proves, the researchers said, that using antiretroviral therapy (ART) to suppress HIV to undetectable levels also means it cannot be passed on via sex.

"Our findings provide conclusive evidence for gay men that the risk of HIV transmission with suppressive ART is zero," said Alison Rodger, a professor at University College London who co-led the research.

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**HIV could soon END after radical drug found to stop virus transmitting**
Birmingham Mail, May 3, 2019 - James Rodger  

Scientists say an end to the "HIV pandemic" could be in sight after a study found that effective treatment can prevent sexual transmission of the virus.

Researchers tested 1,000 gay male couples - one HIV positive and taking antiretroviral drugs to suppress the virus and the other HIV negative - and found no cases of transmission over eight years.

Experts said the results were a "powerful message" that should be spread widely.

"Our findings provide conclusive evidence for gay men that the risk of HIV transmission with suppressive ART (antiretroviral therapy) is zero," said Professor Alison Rodger, from University College London, who co-led the research.

"This powerful message can help end the HIV pandemic by preventing HIV transmission, and tackling the stigma and discrimination that many people with HIV face," she added.

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**Treatment prevents sexual HIV transmission among gay men**
Medical Xpress, May 3, 2019  

HIV-suppressing medication can make the AIDS virus "untransmittable" even among couples who have sex without using condoms, new research showed Friday.

The Europe-wide study monitored nearly 1,000 gay male couples over a period of eight years, where one partner was HIV-positive and receiving antiretroviral (ART) treatment, while the other was HIV negative.

Doctors did not find a single case of in-couple HIV transmission within that time, raising hopes that widespread ART programmes could eventually end new infections.

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**Antiretroviral treatment prevents HIV transmission in gay men**
Medical Xpress, May 3, 2019  
Scientists at the University of Liverpool have contributed to research findings that show effective antiretroviral treatment prevents sexual transmission of HIV in gay men.

The final results of the PARTNER study are published in the leading medical journal The Lancet. The study reports zero HIV transmissions over eight years in gay men not using condoms, finally confirming that an undetectable viral load on HIV treatment renders an individual sexually non-infectious.

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**HIV positive men on antiretroviral drugs can’t transmit virus, study shows**  
PinkNews.co.uk, May 2, 2019 - Patrick Kelleher  
[https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/05/02/hiv-positive-men-antiretroviral-drugs-untransmittable/](https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2019/05/02/hiv-positive-men-antiretroviral-drugs-untransmittable/)

A new study has indicated that there is zero risk of transmitting HIV to a partner while on effective antiretroviral treatment.

The study—which is published in The Lancet and is called PARTNER2—investigated almost 1,000 gay male couples who did not use condoms across Europe over more than eight years where one partner had the virus.

Over the course of eight years, just 15 of the HIV-negative men involved contracted the virus—however, researchers were able to confirm through genetic testing that none of those men contracted the virus from their partner.

The study is the largest of its kind, and researchers say it provides conclusive evidence that having an undetectable viral load while on antiretroviral therapy (ART) means that the virus is untransmittable.

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**HIV drugs stop sexual transmission of AIDS virus, say doctors**  
DW.com, May 3, 2019  

HIV-suppressing medication could stop sexual transmission of the AIDS virus among gay couples — even if they had sex without condoms.

Authors of the study, published in medical journal The Lancet on Friday, presented it as evidence that the spread of HIV could be countered with antiretroviral treatment (ART).

Researchers monitored almost 1,000 gay male couple across Europe over an 8-year period, where one partner was HIV-positive and undergoing ART and the other didn’t have the virus.

The couples reported having anal sex without condoms at total of 76,088 times.

Doctors found that over the course of the study there was not a single case of in-couple transmission. Researchers estimated that the ART had prevented 472 HIV transmissions.

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Large study to date shows effective drug treatment prevents HIV transmission in male couples
National Institute for Health Research, May 2, 2019
https://www.nihr.ac.uk/news/largest-study-to-date-shows-effective-drug-treatment-prevents-hiv-transmission-in-male-couples/11282

An NIHR-funded European study of nearly 1000 male couples has confirmed that effective antiretroviral therapy prevents HIV transmission, with no cases of transmission within couples over eight years of follow-up.

The PARTNER 2 study is published today in The Lancet. The results provide conclusive evidence that a person with undetectable levels of HIV in their blood cannot transmit the virus through sex.

Couples who took part in the study, funded by NIHR Research for Patient Benefit, were already having sex without using condoms before joining the study. During the course of the study, 15 HIV-negative men became infected with HIV, but not through transmission from their main partner. None of the viruses found in the newly infected men were genetically linked to the HIV virus that had infected their main partner.

The researchers estimate that effective antiretroviral therapy prevented around 472 HIV transmissions during the eight years of the study. They also highlight the importance of regular monitoring for people with HIV and support with long-term adherence to therapy.

NIHR previously funded the earlier PARTNER 1 study through NIHR Programme Grants for Applied Research. PARTNER 1 focused on heterosexual couples, with results in 2016 showing no risk of transmission with undetectable levels of HIV.

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HIV/AIDS Cure: End of Epidemic Nears? Virus Transmission Prevented Through ART Drugs, Study Confirms
EconoTimes, May 3, 2019

Aside from relentlessly finding a cure for HIV/AIDS, scientists have been working on ending the epidemic by also preventing the spread of the virus. A recently published study confirmed that HIV transmission can be prevented when an HIV patient responds well to the ART drug regimen, thus, repressing the infection.

The study referred to as Partner was published on The Lancet on Thursday. But the two-phase observations were originally carried out from 2010 to 2018 in 75 locations across 14 countries in Europe. The research is focused on determining the level of risk of HIV transmissions in couples where one partner is HIV-positive whose system has successfully suppressed the virus through ART drugs.

The study was participated by around 1,000 male serodifferent couples. Serodifferent means one of them was diagnosed HIV-positive while the other is not. Through the eight years of observations and follow-ups, researchers found no HIV transmission between these partners — despite performing condomless sexual intercourse — with the HIV patient being under the ART regimen.
PARTNER2 Study: Viral Suppression of HIV Prevents Sexual Transmission Between Gay Men
American Journal of Managed Care, May 2, 2019 - Wallace Stephens
https://www.ajmc.com/newsroom/partner2-study-viral-suppression-of-hiv-prevents-sexual-transmission-between-gay-men

Findings from the landmark PARTNER2 study provided clear evidence that individuals with HIV who had achieved viral suppression through antiretroviral therapy (ART) had no risk of transmitting the virus to their partners through sexual contact, according to The Lancet.

“With no linked transmissions, the estimated rate for transmission through condomless anal sex when the positive partner on ART had HIV viral load less than 200 copies per milliliter was zero,” researchers said.

PARTNER2, the second phase of the PARTNER study, included gay male serodifferent couples, in which 1 partner was HIV-positive and receiving ART while the other partner was HIV-negative, who reported acts of condomless anal sex from 2010 to 2018. The PARTNER study included heterosexual couples while PARTNER2 was restricted to only gay couples.

Aids breakthrough: landmark study finds drugs prevent transmission of virus
Positive News, May 3, 2019

Scientists appear to have made a major breakthrough in efforts to prevent Aids, as a new study found that treatment can prevent sexual transmission of the virus.

The study, published in The Lancet medical journal this week, examined nearly 1,000 gay male couples who had sex without condoms, in which one partner was HIV positive and treating the condition with antiretrovirals. It found no cases of transmission over the space of eight years.

Such is the success of the medicine, researchers said, that if everyone with HIV was fully treated, there would be no further infections.

“It’s brilliant – fantastic. This very much puts this issue to bed,” Professor Alison Rodger from University College London, the co-leader of the study, told the Guardian.

Final Publication of PARTNER Results Reinforces U=U
Contagion Live, May 3, 2019 - Michaela Fleming

The final results of the PARTNER study have been published in the journal The Lancet. The study reports that after 8 years of follow up, undetectable viral load on antiretroviral therapy results renders the individual unable to sexually transmit HIV.
The PARTNER2 study enrolled nearly 1000 gay male couples consisting of 1 HIV-negative partner and 1 partner confirmed to have HIV that was currently on ART and had a viral load <200 copies/mL.

PARTNER was an observational study that evaluated the risk of transmission risk when an individual was receiving ART. The first stage of the study took place from 2010-2014 and recruited and followed heterosexual and gay serodiscordant couples. The study investigators found that the results were less precise for the gay couples at the end of the study, and therefore, the second stage of the study, PARTER 2, aimed to produce similar results as observed in heterosexual couples.

PARTNER2 followed nearly 1000 gay male serodiscordant couple from 14 different countries in Europe from September 2010 to April 2018. To be eligible for enrollment, the HIV-positive member of the couple was required to be on ART at the point of enrollment. The couples were required to complete questionnaires every 6 months reporting the frequency of sexual activities. The investigators also monitoring the viral load of the HIV-positive partner and the HIV status of the HIV-negative partner every 6 to 12 months.

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With effective treatment HIV risk is zero in gay men | THEGAYUK
The gay uk, May 3, 2019

A European study of 972 gay male serodifferent couples, in which one partner was on suppressive antiretroviral therapy (ART), has found no cases of HIV transmission within couples over 8 years of follow up.

The observational study, which is the largest of its kind and published in The Lancet, provides conclusive evidence that having an undetectable viral load (less than 200 copies/mL) on ART means that the virus is untransmittible.

Over 8 years of follow up in the study, 15 HIV-negative men became infected with HIV, but none of the viruses screened in the newly infected partner were genetically linked to the HIV virus that had infected their main partners, ruling out any within-couple HIV transmissions.

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Study finds ART prevents HIV transmission between gay men
Pharmaceutical Technology, May 3, 2019

A study published in The Lancet has found that taking antiretroviral therapy (ART) stops gay men passing human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) to their partners. Gay men are most at risk of contracting the virus and most affected by the HIV epidemic in the US and Europe.

In the PARTNER2 trial, researchers studied 972 male gay partners in serodiscordant couples – one living with HIV and taking ART and the other being HIV-negative – over eight years from 2010 to 2017. There were no cases of HIV transmission during the time period, with the participants reported to have engaged in sex without condoms a total of 76,088 times.

Consequently, the study concluded “the risk of HIV transmission through anal sex when HIV viral load is suppressed is effectively zero.”
Genetic testing of the 15 men who did become infected with HIV during the trial period showed the virus was not transmitted from their main partner who was taking ART.

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**HIV: Zero risk of transmission with treatment, study confirms**  
Independent Nurse, May 3, 2019 - Alex Turnbull  

Taking anti-HIV drugs stops gay men passing on the virus to sexual partners, a study published in the Lancet has found.

The study of 972 gay male couples where one was living with HIV and taking antiretroviral therapy (ART) and the other was HIV negative over eight years, from 2010-2017, found no evidence of transmission. This was due to treatment reducing the virus to very low levels in the body.

‘Unlike other studies on HIV transmission, we only recruited couples that had already chosen not to use condoms and in the primary analysis we only included periods when condoms were not used and with no use of PrEP or PEP by the HIV-negative partner,’ the study’s authors commented.

‘We found no linked transmissions across all types of sexual behaviour and during periods when the HIV-positive or HIV-negative partner reported an STI.’

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**Gay HIV transmission with treatment is ‘zero risk’, study confirms**  
Health Medicine Network, May 3, 2019  

Further evidence that taking anti-HIV drugs stops gay men passing on the virus to sexual partners has been called a “powerful message” which should be more widely known.

A study of nearly 1,000 gay male couples in The Lancet found no cases of HIV transmission over eight years.

This was due to treatment reducing the virus to very low levels in the body.

“Undetectable equals untransmittable” should be basic HIV knowledge for everyone, experts said.

The European study followed 972 gay male couples – where one was living with HIV and taking antiretroviral therapy (ART) and the other was HIV negative – over eight years, from 2010-2017.

There were no cases of HIV being passed within the couples over that time.

And the researchers say that around 472 cases of HIV are likely to have been prevented.

In total, the couples reported having anal sex without condoms a total of 76,088 times.
Although 15 men did become infected with HIV during the study, genetic testing showed that none of the viruses came from their main partner.

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**Effective antiretroviral treatment prevents sexual transmission of HIV in gay men**

Gscene, May 3, 2019

New research finds that people receiving effective treatment for HIV can’t pass on the virus to their sexual partners.

THE study published in the Lancet looked at 1,000 gay males who had sex without using condoms – where one partner was HIV positive and on suppressive antiretroviral therapy (ART) and the other HIV negative – reporting no cases of within-couple HIV transmission over 8 years.

A study of 972 gay male serodifferent couples, in which one partner was on suppressive antiretroviral therapy (ART), has found no cases of HIV transmission within couples over 8 years of follow-up.

The observational study, which is the largest of its kind and published in The Lancet today, provides conclusive evidence that having an undetectable viral load (less than 200 copies/mL) on ART means that the virus is transmittable.

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**HIV cannot be transmitted when viral load is undetectable, study shows**

PharmaFile, May 3, 2019

The risk of transmitting HIV through gay sex when the infected partner’s HIV load has been fully supressed by antiretroviral drugs is effectively zero, according to a study published in The Lancet.

The findings support the message of the U=U (undetectable equals untransmittable) campaign in confirming that HIV cannot be transmitted via homosexual sex when the infected partner’s viral load is undetectable.

The study of 972 gay couples, in which the partner living with HIV had an undetectable viral load, found that there were no cases of HIV transmission linked to within-couple sex.

“It’s brilliant – fantastic. This very much puts this issue to bed,” said Professor Alison Rodgers from University College London.

“Our findings provide conclusive evidence for gay men that the risk of HIV transmission with suppressive ART [antiretroviral therapy] is zero. Our findings support the message of the international U=U campaign that an undetectable viral load makes HIV untransmittable.”

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Antiretroviral therapy (ART) can ward off the sexual transmission of HIV, finds an observational European study* of nearly 1000 gay male couples, in which one partner was HIV positive and the other HIV negative, and published in The Lancet.

No cases of HIV transmission within couples were observed during a monitoring period of eight years, prompting the researchers to hail the findings as “conclusive evidence” that the risk of transmission while on suppressive ART is zero.

The study, which is the largest of its kind, provides strong evidence that an undetectable viral load (less than 200 copies/ml) stops the virus from being passed on.

During the eight-year monitoring period, 15 HIV negative men became infected, but none of the viruses screened in the newly infected partner were genetically linked to the HIV virus that had infected their main partners—ruling out any within-couple HIV transmission.

The researchers estimate that effective ART prevented around 472 HIV transmissions throughout the study period.

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