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GILEAD | Medical Information

Descovy for PrEP® (FTC/TAF) Use After Bariatric Surgery

This document is in response to your request for information regarding the absorption of Descovy for PrEP® (emtricitabine/tenofovir alafenamide [FTC/TAF] for HIV-1 pre-exposure prophylaxis [PrEP]) after bariatric surgery. This response was developed according to principles of evidence-based medicine and contains clinical data.

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The full indication, important safety information, and boxed warnings are available at: www.gilead.com/-/media/files/pdfs/medicines/hiv/descovy/descovy_pi; www.gilead.com/-/media/files/pdfs/medicines/hiv/truvada/truvada_pi.

Clinical Data on FTC/TAF for PrEP Use After Bariatric Surgery

Canadian Study of TFV-DP Levels After Bariatric Surgery[1]

A prospective study was conducted in Canada to assess TFV-DP levels among participants using FTC/TAF or FTC/TDF for PrEP who either had a planned bariatric surgery or had already undergone a bariatric surgery (N=7). Eligible participants were adherent to oral PrEP for ≥3 months, tested negative for HIV within 3 months of enrollment, and were willing to consistently take oral PrEP for 7 days prior to DBS sampling.

At baseline, 6 of the 7 participants had already undergone bariatric surgery (Roux-en-Y, n=4; sleeve gastrectomy, n=2). All 7 participants identified as cisgender gay men, and the median age, weight, and BMI were 48 years, 115 kg, and 31 kg/m^2, respectively.

Three participants were taking oral FTC/TAF for PrEP; 2 of these participants had already undergone bariatric surgery and had TFV-DP concentrations >2000 fmol/punch, consistent with adherence for 7 consecutive days.

One participant who was receiving oral FTC/TAF for PrEP underwent a Roux-en-Y gastric bypass after enrollment and had pre- and post-surgical DBS samples taken. After surgery, the participant's TFV-DP levels decreased approximately 10% and continued to be lower than pre-surgery levels when assessed at post-operative Days 7, 28, and 84 (±3); however, TFV-DP levels were at therapeutic levels (>2000 fmol/punch) at all assessments.

Reference

1. McGarrity MW, MacPherson P, Li A, Naccarato M, Anderson P, Tan DHS. Intracellular tenofovir-diphosphate concentrations in HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis users who underwent bariatric surgery. *HIV Med*. 2025;26(4):643-649.

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Abbreviations

DBS=dried blood spot
FTC=emtricitabine
PrEP=pre-exposure prophylaxis
TAF=tenofovir alafenamide
TFV-DP=tenofovir diphosphate

Product Label

For the full indication, important safety information, and boxed warning(s), please refer to the Descovy and Truvada US Prescribing Information available at:
www.gilead.com/-/media/files/pdfs/medicines/hiv/descovy/descovy_pi;
www.gilead.com/-/media/files/pdfs/medicines/hiv/truvada/truvada_pi.

Follow Up

For any additional questions, please contact Gilead Medical Information at:

☎1-866-MEDI-GSI (1-866-633-4474) or 🖱 www.askgileadmedical.com

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Please report all adverse events to:

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🖱 www.gilead.com/utility/contact/report-an-adverse-event

FDA MedWatch Program by ☎ 1-800-FDA-1088 or ✉MedWatch, FDA, 5600 Fishers Ln, Rockville, MD 20852 or 🖱 www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/medwatch

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