

**Author(s):****Question:** Therapeutic switch compared to no switch in PLWH with viremia of low magnitude**Setting:****Bibliography:**

Certainty assessment							N <sub>o</sub> of patients		Effect		Certainty	Importance
N <sub>o</sub> of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	therapeutic switch	no switch	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)		
<b>Number of PLWH with virologic suppression (&lt;20cp/ml)</b>												
4	non-randomised studies	serious <sup>a</sup>	serious <sup>b</sup>	not serious	serious <sup>c</sup>	none	258/435 (59.3%)	306/532 (57.5%)	<b>OR 3.43</b> (0.50 to 23.68)	<b>248 more per 1,000</b> (from 171 fewer to 395 more)	⊕○○○ Very low	CRITICAL
<b>Number of PWH with virologic suppression (&lt;50cp/ml)</b>												
2	non-randomised studies	serious <sup>a</sup>	serious <sup>b</sup>	not serious	serious <sup>c</sup>	none	66/121 (54.5%)	83/192 (43.2%)	<b>OR 1.57</b> (0.97 to 2.55)	<b>112 more per 1,000</b> (from 7 fewer to 228 more)	⊕○○○ Very low	CRITICAL
<b>Number of PWH with virologic suppression (&lt;50cp/ml)</b>												
1	randomised trials	not serious	serious <sup>b</sup>	not serious	serious <sup>d</sup>	none	22/40 (55.0%)	0.0%	<b>OR 3.60</b> (1.22 to 10.65)	<b>0 fewer per 1,000</b> (from 0 fewer to 0 fewer)	⊕⊕○○ Low	CRITICAL
<b>Mean Difference of CD4 (pre-post therapeutic switch)</b>												
1	non-randomised studies	serious <sup>e</sup>	serious <sup>f</sup>	not serious	serious <sup>d</sup>	none	Mean difference -54 (-218-110)			⊕○○○ Very low	IMPORTANT	
<b>Mean Difference of CD4 (pre-post therapeutic switch)</b>												
1	randomised trials	not serious	serious <sup>f</sup>	not serious	serious <sup>d</sup>	none	Mean Difference 78.8 (-66.2-223)			⊕⊕○○ Low	IMPORTANT	

CI: confidence interval; OR: odds ratio

**Explanations**

a. Some issues regarding comparability and adequacy of follow up of cohorts.

b. There is important heterogeneity between studies, which report very wide confidence interval. Furthermore, they report inconsistent effect of therapeutic switch on virologic suppression.

c. Wide confidence intervals, small sample sizes, small effect

d. Wide confidence interval

e. Risk of bias due to confounding, measurement of outcome and missing data

f. Important heterogeneity among studies. Inconsistent effect of therapeutic switch on CD4 levels