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## Resistance to reverse transcriptase inhibitors used in the treatment and prevention of HIV-1 infection

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### Abstract

Inhibitors that target the retroviral enzyme reverse transcriptase (RT) have played an indispensable role in the treatment and prevention of HIV-1 infection. They can be grouped into two distinct therapeutic groups; namely the nucleoside and nucleotide RT inhibitors (NRTIs), and the nonnucleoside RT inhibitors (NNRTIs). NRTIs form the backbones of most first- and second-line antiretroviral therapy (ART) regimens formulated for the treatment of HIV-1 infection. They are also used to prevent mother-to-child transmission, and as pre-exposure prophylaxis in individuals at risk of HIV-1 infection. The NNRTIs nevirapine (NVP), efavirenz and rilpivirine also used to form part of first-line ART regimens, although this is no longer recommended, while etravirine can be used in salvage ART regimens. A single-dose of NVP administered to both mother and child has routinely been used in resource-limited settings to reduce the rate of HIV-1 transmission. Unfortunately, the development of HIV-1 resistance to RT inhibitors can compromise the efficacy of these antiviral drugs in both the treatment and prevention arenas. Here, we provide an up-to-date review on drug-resistance mutations in HIV-1 RT, and discuss their cross-resistance profiles, molecular mechanisms and clinical significance.

### Keywords

HIV; reverse transcriptase; resistance; mutations; nucleoside; nonnucleoside

### Introduction

HIV-1 reverse transcriptase (RT) catalyzes the conversion of the viral single-stranded RNA into double-stranded DNA, which then serves as a substrate for integration into the human genome. RT is a multifunctional enzyme and exhibits both DNA polymerase and

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ribonuclease H (RNase H) activity. Due to its indispensable role in virus replication, 18 different antiviral drugs and drug combinations have been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration that target HIV-1 RT (Table 1; <https://aidsinfo.nih.gov/education-materials/fact-sheets/21/58/fda-approved-hiv-medicines>). These RT inhibitors (RTIs) can be classified into two distinct therapeutic groups; namely the nucleoside and nucleotide RTIs (NRTIs), and the nonnucleoside RTIs (NNRTIs) (Figure 1). Once metabolized in the cell to their active diphosphate or triphosphate forms, NRTIs inhibit reverse transcription by competing with the analogous dNTP substrate for binding and incorporation into the newly synthesized DNA chain. Incorporation of an NRTI into the nascent viral DNA chain results in termination of any further nucleic acid synthesis. The NNRTIs are chemically distinct from the NRTIs and do not require intracellular metabolism for activity. Instead they bind to HIV-1 RT at a site, which is located approximately 10 Å from the DNA polymerase active site, termed the NNRTI-binding pocket, and inhibit reverse transcription by an allosteric mechanism of action.

### Acquired drug resistance in HIV-infected individuals failing first-line therapy containing RTIs

Until recently, a first-line regimen for antiretroviral therapy (ART)-naïve individuals consisted of two NRTIs plus an NNRTI, a ritonavir-boosted protease inhibitor (PI/r), or an integrase inhibitor (INI). The most widely used NRTI combinations include ABC/3TC, TDF/FTC and ZDV/3TC and NNRTI include one of the following: EFV, RPV or NVP. However, EFV was typically preferred on the basis of its potency, although RPV may be used as an alternative NNRTI option in subjects with pre-treatment HIV RNA < 100,000 copies/mL. NVP used to be an option in women with pretreatment CD4<sup>+</sup> counts > 250 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> or in men with pretreatment CD4<sup>+</sup> counts > 400 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>.

Virologic failure (i.e., the inability to achieve or maintain suppression of viral replication) in an HIV-infected individual on first-line ART occurs for multiple reasons, including sub-optimal adherence, drug intolerance/toxicity or drug resistance. HIV-1 drug resistance arises from the genetic variability of the virus population and selection of subpopulations of resistant variants with therapy [1]. HIV-1 genetic variability is due to the high rate of HIV-1 replication (10<sup>10</sup> rounds of replication per day), the error-prone nature of the RT enzyme, which lacks proofreading activity (3 x 10<sup>-5</sup> mutation per base pair per cycle), and genetic recombination when viruses of different sequence infect the same cell. Consequently, multiple genetically distinct variants (termed quasi-species) evolve within an individual in the years following infection. The selection of a drug resistant variant depends on the extent to which virus replication continues during therapy, the ease of acquisition of a particular mutation, and the effect of drug resistance mutations on drug susceptibility and viral fitness [1].

HIV-1 resistance to RTIs typically correlates with mutations in RT (Table 2). NRTI resistance mutations can be classified into two groups depending on their phenotypic mechanism of resistance. The thymidine analog mutations (TAMs) M41L, D67N, K70R, L210W, T215F/Y and K219Q/E are typically selected by ZDV (or d4T) and increase the ability of RT to excise a chain-terminating NRTI-monophosphate from a chain-terminated

DNA primer [2]. In contrast, the mutations K65R, K70E, L74I/V and M184I/V increase the selectivity of RT for incorporation of the natural dNTP substrate *versus* the NRTI-diphosphate/triphosphate [3–6]. Rarely, virologic failure can also be associated with multi-NRTI resistance mutations including the Q151M complex [7], and the  $\beta$ 3- $\beta$ 4 insertions and deletions [8]. HIV-1 resistance to NNRTIs is associated with the acquisition of one or more mutations in the NNRTI-binding pocket of RT [9]. NNRTI resistance mutations can impact inhibitor binding by: (i) removing one or more favorable interactions between the inhibitor and NNRTI-binding pocket; (ii) by introducing steric barriers to NNRTI binding; or (iii) by introducing or eliminating inter-residue contacts in the NNRTI-binding pocket, which interfere with the ability of other residues in the pocket to fold down over the NNRTI.

First-line therapy that included both NRTIs and NNRTIs has also been associated with the selection of mutations in the connection domain of HIV-1 RT. For example, the N348I mutation can appear early in therapy and is found to be highly associated with TAMs, M184V/I and the NNRTI resistance mutations K103N, Y181C/I, and G190A/S [10,11]. N348I appears to be significantly associated with therapies that contain ZDV (or d4T) and NVP, and decreases HIV-1 susceptibility to both drugs [10,11].

In some instances, interactions between different RTI resistance mutations can be antagonistic or complementary. For example, the NRTI discrimination mutations K65R, K70E, L74V and M184V and the NNRTI mutation Y181C reverse HIV-1 resistance to ZDV when added to a genetic background containing TAMs [6,12–14]. In contrast, the RPV resistance mutation E138K compensates for the poor replicative capacity of HIV-1 containing M184I [15]. As a consequence of this interaction, the combination of these two mutations (i.e., E138K + M184I) was the most frequent mutation combination in therapy-naive individuals who failed a first-line ART regimen containing TDF/FTC/RPV in the phase III ECHO and THRIVE clinical trials [16].

## Subtype differences in HIV-1 resistance to RTIs

The diversity of HIV-1 has given rise to a large number of variants, including nine subtypes (A–D, F–H, J–K), six sub-subtypes (A1–A4, F1–F2), multiple (> 48) circulating recombinant forms and thousands of unique recombinant forms. Despite the fact that non-subtype B strains are responsible for 90% of global infections, the majority of research on HIV-1 drug resistance has focused on subtype B viruses. Importantly, there is growing increasing evidence of subtype differences in RTI drug resistance. For example, subtype C viruses harbor GTG (valine) at codon 106 in RT whereas subtype B harbors the GTA (valine) polymorphism. This genetic variation facilitates the emergence of subtype C virus with the V106M mutation (GTG to ATG) that confers high-level resistance to EFV and NVP [17]. Furthermore, subtype C viruses harbor AAA (lysine), AAG (lysine) and AAG (lysine) at codons 64, 65 and 66 of RT, respectively. In contrast, all other HIV-1 subtypes harbor AAG (lysine) and AAA (lysine) at the same codons. There is clinical evidence demonstrating frequent and early emergence of K65R on TDF-based first-line ART regimens in South Africa [18] where subtype C is predominant. In this regard, the difference in selection of K65R between subtypes B and C may be related to the template nucleotide

sequence and preferential pausing of reverse transcription at the homopolymeric stretch of adenine bases at codons 64, 65 and 66 of RT [19].

## Acquired drug resistance in individuals failing second- and third-line ART containing RTIs

For HIV-1-infected individuals failing a first line NNRTI-containing regimen, second-line ART typically consists of two NRTIs plus a PI/r. For individuals failing PI/r or INI-containing first-line regimens, NNRTIs can also be used in second-line ART. The NRTI backbone used in second-line ART is dependent on several considerations, including availability as a fixed-dose combination, tolerability and resistance mutation risk. The following sequence of second-line NRTI options is recommended: (i) after failure on a TDF + FTC (or 3TC)-based first-line regimen, AZT + 3TC should be used; (ii) after failure of an AZT + 3TC-based first-line regimen, TDF + FTC (or 3TC) should be used. Other NRTI drugs such as ABC and ddI are acceptable as potential back-up options in special situations, but are not recommended as preferred alternatives, since they have no specific advantage and add complexity and cost. Typically, third-line regimes should include new drugs with minimal risk of cross-resistance to previously used regimens, such as INIs and the next-generation NNRTIs (i.e., ETR) and PIs.

The mutations associated with NRTI resistance in individuals failing second-line ART are similar to those described for first-line ART. Resistance to the NNRTI ETR is conferred by combinations of the following mutations: L100I, K101E/P, E138A/G/K/Q, Y181C/I/V, Y188L, G190A/S/E and M230L (see <http://hivdb.stanford.edu/DR/NNRTIResiNote.html>).

## Multi-RTI Drug Resistance

There is a significant degree of cross-resistance between the NRTIs and, independently, the NNRTIs. While resistance to an NRTI may develop by more than one route (as described above), there are some common pathways of cross-resistance (Table 2). TAMs confer some degree of cross-resistance to all NRTIs [20], whereas K65R decreases HIV-1 susceptibility to all NRTIs, except ZDV [12]. M184V, typically associated with FTC and 3TC resistance, may also cause resistance to ABC and ddI [20]. The Q151M complex [7] and the  $\beta$ 3– $\beta$ 4 insertions and deletions [8] in HIV-1 RT can lead to resistance to all existing NRTIs as a class. Of concern, NRTI cross-resistance can lead to difficulties in finding effective antiretroviral therapies for infected-individuals who have already received extensive NRTI treatment. In the NNRTI class, cross-resistance is extensive (Table 2). In a recent analysis [21], 16 mutations at ten positions in HIV-1 RT were significantly associated with the greatest contribution to reduced phenotypic susceptibility to one or more NNRTI, including 14 mutations at six positions for NVP (K101P, K103N/S, V106A/M, Y181C/I/V, Y188C/L and G190A/E/Q/S); 10 mutations at six positions for EFV (L100I, K101P, K103N, V106M, Y188C/L and G190A/E/Q/S); 5 mutations at four positions for ETR (K101P, Y181I/V, G190E and F227C); and 6 mutations at five positions for RPV (L100I, K101P, Y181I/V, G190E and F227C). Of note, K101P and G190E were found to markedly reduce susceptibility to all NNRTIs.

## HIV drug resistance in mothers and infants following use of ART to prevent mother-to-child transmission

The transmission of HIV-1 from an HIV-1-positive mother to her child can occur during pregnancy, labor, delivery or breastfeeding. In 1994, ZDV monotherapy was shown to reduce mother-to-child-transmission (MTCT) by 67.5% in a randomized placebo-controlled trial conducted in infants [22]. However, monotherapy does not suppress viral replication to undetectable levels, and consequently ZDV-resistance has been detected during pregnancy, and has been transmitted to infants [23]. Because combination ART regimens containing at least three drugs were more potent than monotherapy in women taking ART to treat their HIV infection, a lower rate of MTCT was observed compared to ZDV-monotherapy [24].

For many reasons, including insufficient infrastructure and lack of funds, women in resource-limited settings can have limited access to antiviral drugs to prevent MTCT. Consequently, shortened, simplified and inexpensive regimens were developed to prevent MTCT. In this regard, the HIVNET 012 Trial demonstrated that single-dose of NVP (sdNVP) given to the mother during labor and to mothers of breastfeeding infants after birth, reduced MTCT by 50% at 6 weeks of age and by 38% at 18 months of age [25]. Unfortunately, sdNVP selects resistant viruses at high rates in both mothers and infected infants; 10 to 75% of mothers and 4 to 87% of children [26] and is no longer recommended. Prevalence of NVP resistance after sdNVP varies across HIV subtypes, with higher rates in subtypes C and D compared to subtype A [27]. NVP resistance also confers cross-resistance to EFV. As described above, since both of these NNRTIs form part of first-line ART regimens used globally to treat HIV-infected individuals, it is particularly concerning. In response to these findings, the World Health Organization recommended that in addition to sdNVP, ZDV monotherapy (or ART) should be administered to the mother during late gestation and that short course combination ART “tails” - such as ZDV/3TC, ZDV/ddI or TDF/FTC - be administered to the mother and infant to further suppress viral replication and increase the genetic barrier to resistance.

### Drug resistance and pre-exposure prophylaxis

Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) involves the use of antiretroviral drugs, specifically TDF and FTC, to prevent HIV-1 infection in high-risk populations. TDF and FTC fixed dose combination regimen (coformulated as a single pill called Truvada) are favored as PrEP agents because: (i) they exhibit potent activity against all HIV-1 subtypes; (ii) they act early in the viral replication cycle; (iii) they possess long intracellular half-lives; (iv) they are able to achieve high concentrations in the genital tract; (v) they have a convenient daily dosing with few drug interactions; and (vi) they have established safety profiles. Six efficacy trials of orally administered TDF and/or FTC/TDF as PrEP for HIV prevention have been completed (Table 3). Four of these trials demonstrated that PrEP reduced the risk of HIV acquisition, with intention-to-treat comparisons against placebo showing HIV protection efficacies between 44% and 75% [28–31]. A dose–response relationship between adherence and HIV protection was demonstrated across PrEP efficacy trials. In general, HIV-1 protection correlated with adherence. Specifically, no protection was found in two trials (FEM-PrEP and VOICE) in which adherence to PrEP was very low [32,33].

PrEP could, in principle, lead to increased levels of drug resistance. For example, PrEP may be ineffective against resistant HIV strains, which could lead to a relative increase in transmitted drug-resistance. Furthermore, if an individual becomes infected while using PrEP, the drugs could select for drug-resistant HIV-1. However, in the early PrEP studies, none of the infections that occurred during the trials were with drug resistant strains. Another risk occurs when individuals start using PrEP while already infected with HIV-1. In the iPrEx and Partners PrEP studies, there were at least 3 examples of acquired drug-resistance due to the use of PrEP by previously infected individuals [28,29]. As described for sdNVP for the prevention of MTCT, the development of TDF- or FTC-resistance from exposure to PrEP agents could significantly influence first-line ART. However, as described above, the overall rates of acquired resistance due to PrEP vs MTCT are much lower, and additional research is required to comprehensively assess the frequency of PrEP acquired resistance.

### Minority (Low-Frequency) Variants

Standard genotyping assays can only detect variants that have a frequency of around 20 % or higher in an HIV-1 infected individual. In recent years, however, novel technologies have allowed investigators to detect variants at much lower frequencies, depending on the assay. In general, these studies have demonstrated a higher frequency of drug resistant variants in both ART-naïve and -experienced individuals, and that pre-existing minority variants can compromise subsequent therapy, as described below.

The OCTANE Trial 1 showed that women who had received sdNVP are more likely to fail a first-line ART regimen containing NVP compared to one containing ritonavir-boosted lopinavir, even in participants in whom resistance due to sdNVP use was not detectable by standard genotyping [34]. Follow-up analyses revealed that participants who harbored low-frequencies of K103N or Y181C (as detected by allele specific PCR assay), had > 3 times the risk of virologic failure compared to women without these mutations [34]. The association between NNRTI-resistant minority variants and treatment failure has also been documented in several other studies of women and children exposed to sdNVP [35–38].

The effect of drug-resistant minority variants in ART-naïve subjects has been studied in individuals on an NNRTI-based first-line regimen. In a pooled analysis of ten studies involving 985 participants, none of whom had detectable NNRTI and NRTI resistance by standard genotyping, ~ 14% were found to harbor either an NNRTI or NRTI minority variant [39]. Importantly, this study showed that the presence of a minority resistance mutation at baseline was associated with more than twice the risk of virologic failure. Studies in treatment-naïve African patients have also shown an association between NNRTI minority variant detection and an increased risk of treatment failure [35]. However, a recently reported analysis of OCTANE Trial 2 of treatment-naïve African women did not detect a significant association between NNRTI minority variant detection and risk of treatment failure [40]. In NNRTI-experienced patients, the presence of minority variants also increases the risk of treatment failure [39]. Even though minority variants can now be detected, its clinical application is unclear. However, it may be beneficial in choosing the appropriate regimen in treatment-experienced individuals.

## New RTIs in clinical development

There is an ongoing effort to develop new RTIs, both for the treatment and prevention of HIV-1 infection. Currently, there are two NRTIs [EFdA, and tenofovir alafenamide (TAF)] and an NNRTI (doravirine) in clinical development (Figure 2). Additionally, a long-acting injectable formulation of RPV (RPV-LA) has been developed, and is currently being assessed with the integrase inhibitor GSK1265744 in an ongoing phase II study to determine whether they can maintain virologic suppression in HIV-infected individuals (ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01641809). RPV-LA is also under evaluation as a PrEP agent. Finally, the ASPIRE study is currently assessing whether dapivirine (TMC120), an analog of ETR and RPV, can safely prevent HIV-1 infection when continuously released in the vagina from a silicone ring replaced once a month. While all of these RTIs will help diversify the therapeutic options available for the treatment and prevention of HIV-1 infection, it is unclear whether any of them will be active against existing RTI-resistant variants. In this regard, an ongoing challenge in the field continues to be the development of inhibitors active against drug-resistant HIV-1.

## Overcoming drug resistance: RTIs with distinct mechanisms of action

One approach to overcoming RTI resistance involves the development of RTIs that bind to different sites in HIV-1 RT and exert mechanisms of action distinct from the NRTIs and NNRTIs. The RNase H activity of HIV-1 RT is essential for virus infectivity and therefore, represents a viable target for drug discovery. However, very few inhibitors of this activity have been identified, none of these showed reproducible antiviral activity, and consequently none have progressed to clinical trials. Another novel class of RTI is termed the nucleotide-competing RTIs (NcRTIs) [41]. NcRTIs inhibit HIV-1 RT by binding to the DNA polymerase active site and act as competitive inhibitors of dNTPs. The first NcRTI described, INDOPY-1, was largely unaffected by NRTI and NNRTI-associated resistance, although M184V and Y115F decreased susceptibility to this inhibitor [41]. A more potent novel benzo[4,5]furo[3,2,d]pyrimidin-2-one (BFPY) chemical series of NcRTIs, represented by Compound A, was recently described. These NcRTIs retain potency against RT containing M184V, but select for a W153L mutation [42]. The W153L mutation decreases HIV-1 replication capacity, confers high-level resistance to Compound A, hypersusceptibility to ABC, TDF, 3TC and FTC, and has no effect on NVP. Residue W153 is highly conserved in RT, but is not located at the dNTP binding site. Recent studies suggest that W153L, alone or in a background of clinically relevant mutations for NRTIs and NNRTIs, may severely diminish viral replicative fitness by impairing RT enzyme processivity and polymerization efficiency. W153L can also reverse resistance to TDF in HIV-1 containing K65R; indeed the K65R/W153L double mutant HIV-1 is hypersusceptibility to TDF [85]. In view of the fact that K65R confers hypersusceptibility to Compound A while W153L alone or together with K65R can hypersensitize TDF, it may be advantageous to co-administer a NcRTI with a resistance profile similar to Compound A together with TDF to suppress viral replication in general as well as that of viruses that are resistant to either of these drugs. Hopefully, a modified version of compound A that possesses improved pharmacokinetics will be developed that will make possible the

simultaneous administration of such a compound together with TDF, or with the new generation of TDF-like prodrugs such as TAF or CMX157.

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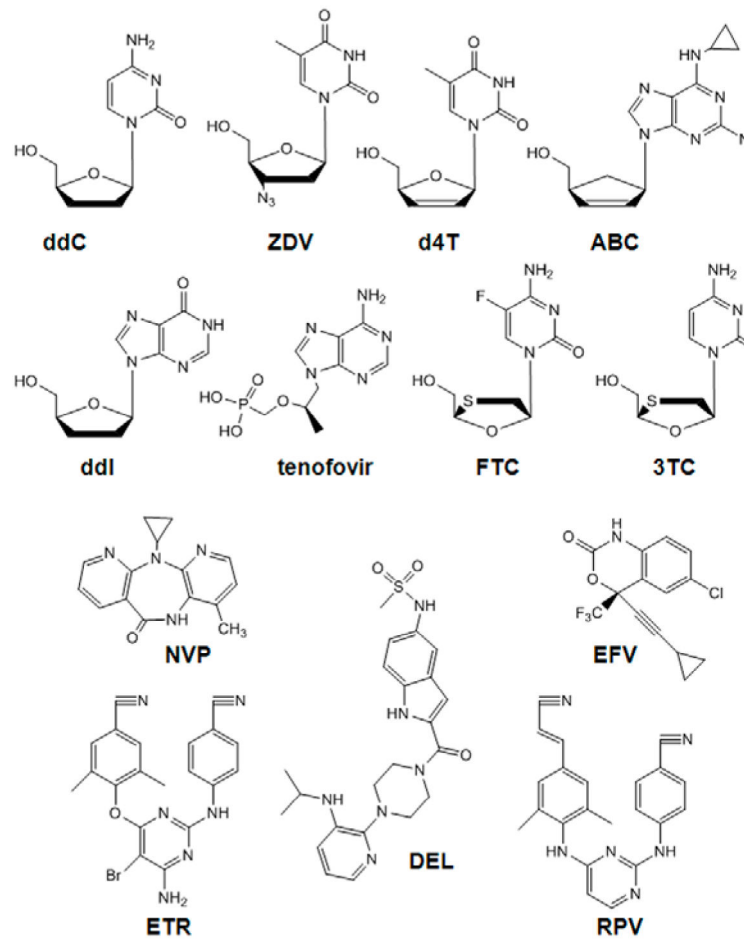


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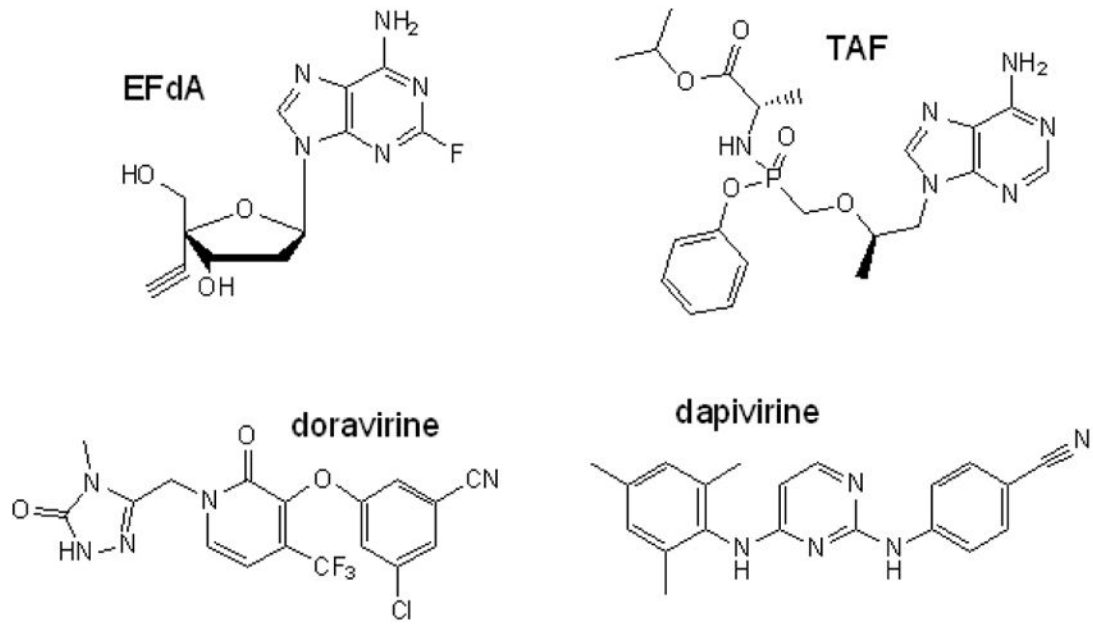
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### Executive Summary

- Reverse transcriptase inhibitors (RTIs) are routinely used to treat HIV-1 infection.
- RTIs can also to reduce mother-to-child-transmission of HIV-1 and have been shown to prevent infection in high-risk populations.
- There are two distinct classes of RT inhibitors, namely the nucleoside RTIs (NRTIs) and the nonnucleoside RTIs (NNRTIs).
- RTI therapy selects for viruses that have mutations in HIV-1 reverse transcriptase.
- NRTI-associated resistance mutations can be broadly categorized into two groups depending on whether they confer resistance by a discrimination or excision phenotype.
- HIV-1 resistance to NNRTIs correlates directly with mutations of one or more RT residues in the NNRTI-binding pocket.
- There is growing increasing evidence of subtype differences in RTI drug resistance.
- Pre-existing RTI-resistance, even present as minor species, can compromise the efficacy of combination antiretroviral therapies that contain RTIs.
- New RTIs are in clinical development that will help diversify the therapeutic options available for the treatment and prevention of HIV-1 infection.



**Figure 1.**  
Structures of RTIs approved for clinical use



**Figure 2.**  
Structures of RTIs in clinical development

**Table 1**

FDA-approved antiretroviral drugs or drug combinations that target RT

Brand Name	Generic Name	Approval Date	NRTIs	Notes
Retrovir	zidovudine, azidothymidine, ZDV	March 1987		Generic form available
Videx	didanosine, dideoxyinosine, ddi	October 1991		Generic form available
Hivid	zalcitabine, dideoxycytidine, ddC	June 1992		No longer marketed due to serious adverse events
Zerit	stavudine, d4T	June 1994		Use is being phased out due to long-term, irreversible side effects
Epivir	lamivudine, 3TC	November 1995		Generic form available
Ziagen	abacavir sulfate, ABC	December 1998		
Viread	tenofovir disoproxil fumarate, TDF	October 2001		
Emtriva	emtricitabine, (-)-FTC	July 2003		
<b>NNRTIs</b>				
Viramune	nevirapine, NVP	June 1996		
Rescriptor	delavirdine, DLV	April 1997		Efficacy < NVP and EFV and is not recommended as part of initial therapy. Cross-resistance among the NNRTI class limits DLV use in second-line therapy.
Sustiva	efavirenz, EFV	September 1998		
Intelence	etravirine, ETR	January 2008		
Edurant	rilpivirine, RPV	May 2011		
<b>NRTI combinations</b>				
Combivir	3TC+ZDV	September 1997		
Trizivir	ABC+3TC+ZDV	November 2000		
Epzicom	ABC+3TC	August 2004		
Truvada	(-)-FTC+TDF	August 2004		
<b>NRTI/NNRTI combinations</b>				
Atripla	(-)-FTC+TDF+EFV	July 2006		
Complera	(-)-FTC+TDF+RPV	August 2011		

**Table 2**

RT mutations associated with resistance to NRTIs and NNRTIs used in first-line ART

Drug	Discrimination Mutations	NRTI Resistance Mutations Excision Enhancing Mutations	Multi-NRTI Resistance Mutations	Notes
ABC	K65R <sup>1</sup> , K70E, L74I/V, Y115F		Q151M <sup>2</sup> T69 Insertions <sup>3</sup>	<b>1</b> K65R confers cross-resistance to all NRTIs except ZDV.
FTC	K65R, M184I/V		Q151M T69 Insertions	<b>2</b> Q151M usually occurs in combination with 2 or more of the following 4 accessory mutations: A62V, V75I, F77L, and F116Y.
3TC	K65R, M184I/V		Q151M T69 Insertions	
TDF	K65R, K70E		Q151M T69 Insertions	
ZDV		M41L, D67N, K70R, L210W, T215F/Y, K219Q/E <sup>4</sup>	Q151M T69 Insertions	<b>3</b> T69 insertions usually occur in combination with multiple TAMs <b>4</b> TAMs confer cross-resistance to all NRTIs
<b>NNRTI Resistance Mutations</b>				
Drug	Resistance Mutations		Notes	
EFV	L100I, K101P, K103N/S, V106M, V108I, Y181C/I, Y188L, G190A/S, P225H, M230L		There are several other mutations and polymorphisms in the HIV-1 NNRTI binding pocket that can reduce drug susceptibility, including Y318F, K238T/N, P236L, L234I, P225H, V179D/E/F/I/T, I132M/L, V106A/I, K103H/T/R/Q/E, K101H/Q/R/N/A/T, A98G and V90I.	
NVP	L100I, K101P, K103N/S, V106M, V108I, Y181C/I, Y188C/L/H, G190A/S, M230L			
RPV	K101E/P, E138A/G/K/Q/R, V179L, Y181C/I/V, Y188I, H221Y, F227C, M230I/L			

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**Table 3**

Clinical trials that used TDF and/or FTC/TDF as PrEP for HIV prevention

Clinical Trial	Population	Design	Relative reduction in HIV incidence in intention-to-treat analysis
Partners PrEP	4,747 heterosexual men and women with known HIV-infected partners (serodiscordant couples)	1:1:1 randomization to daily TDF, FTC/TDF or placebo	TDF: 67% (95% CI: 44% to 81%; $p < 0.0001$ ) FTC/TDF: 75% (95% CI: 5% to 87%; $p < 0.0001$ )
TDF2	1,219 heterosexual men and women	1:1 randomization to daily oral FTC/TDF or placebo	FTC/TDF: 63% (95% CI: 22% to 83%; $p = 0.01$ )
iPrEx	2,499 MSM and transgender women	1:1 randomization to daily oral FTC/TDF or placebo	FTC/TDF: 44% (95% I: 15% to 63%; $p = 0.005$ )
Fem-PrEP	2120 women	1:1 randomization to daily oral FTC/TDF or placebo	FTC/TDF: 6% ( $p = 0.8$ ). No statistically significant reduction in HIV incidence
VOICE	3,019 women (plus 2010 women receiving tenofovir or placebo gel)	1:1:1 randomization to daily oral TDF, FTC/TDF or placebo	TDF: -49% ( $p = 0.07$ ) FTC/TDF: -4% ( $p > 0.2$ ) No statistically significant reduction in HIV incidence
Bagkok Tenofovir Study	2,413 injection drug users	1:1 randomization to daily oral TDF or placebo	TDF: 48.9% (95% CI 9.6% to 72.2 %; $p = 0.01$ )