

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

Certainty assessment							N <sub>e</sub> of patients		Effect		Certainty	Importance
N <sub>e</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