

Talking about injectable ART with clients

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East Bay Getting to Zero (EBGTZ)

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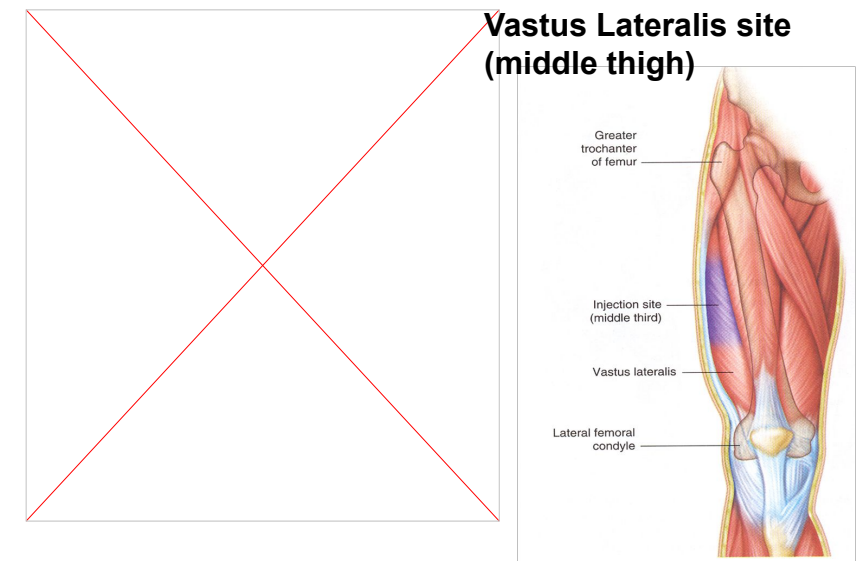
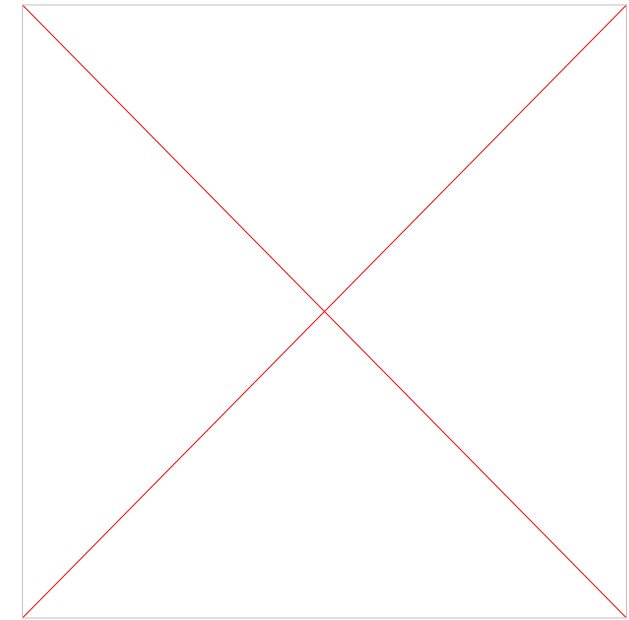
Long-Acting Injectable (LAI) Treatment

- FDA approved as Cabenuva[®] in 2021 (cabotegravir/rilpivirine)
- Two Injections every 4 weeks
 - Many can space out to every 8 weeks
- For all people of all genders > 77 lbs
- Cannot be used if client has history of certain resistance mutations
- Not well studied in BMI > 40



LAI Dosing

- Optional oral lead-in:
 - Cabotegravir + Rilpivirine pills once daily for 4 weeks
- Injection Administration
 - 2 injections
 - Ventrogluteal (upper outer hip)
 - Or dorsogluteal, or vastus lateralis



Injectable ART is an opportunity to address unmet treatment needs

Individuals who might benefit

- Anyone who is interested
- Pill fatigue from daily meds
- Difficulty taking daily meds
- Fear of having pills found
- Kidney Disease
- Bone Loss Disease
- Already receiving long-acting injectable meds (birth control, psychiatry, substance use)

Communities who might benefit

- Groups with lower viral suppression rates: BIPOC, cis women, youth
- Unhoused/unstably housed?
- People who use substances?



Who might need a closer look...

- Complicated medication history (might have resistance)
- Not able to contact/find consistently (MUST be able to come in every 4-8 weeks)
- BMI > 45 – not well studied in this group; might need different dose or different injection site to reach proper drug levels
- Medication interactions:
 - Rifamycin (antibiotic for TB, MAC, other infections)
 - Anti-epileptics: carbamazepine, phenytoin, oxcarbazepine, phenobarbital)
 - Dexamethasone

Injectable ART: injection site reactions

- Most frequent after the first 2-3 injections.
- Generally mild to moderate, lasting only a few days
- Improved with supportive management
- To minimize:
 - take an over-the-counter pain medication within 2 hours before or after the injection and continue as needed for 1-2 days
 - apply a warm compress or heating pad to the injection site for 15-20 minutes after the injection

Injectable ART: Costs



- **Medi-Cal** – covered!
- **Uninsured** – covered through patient assistance program!
 - Will need ADAP for costs of labs, visits, etc.
- **Commercial insurance** – complex landscape
 - Some coverage under “medical” benefits – referral to Alternative Sites of Administration (ASAs)
 - Some coverage under “pharmacy” benefit – with copay requiring ADAP

**Access is still restricted due to complexity of commercial coverage and perceived admin/staffing burden of long-acting injectable programs*

Lessons from Reproductive Justice:

- Elicit **PREFERENCE**
- Offer **CHOICE**
- Share **INFORMATION**
 - What we know and the limitations of the data
- **LISTEN**
- **START** with what the client prefers and will take
- Have **ONGOING CONVERSATIONS** about how it's going
 - Priorities, preferences, & costs may change over time



CAB-LA PrEP Resources

- Pacific AETC Injectables Toolkit: protocols, checklists and patient education
- Ward 86 injectable HIV medication protocol
- Cabenuva training video: medication storage (11:02 mins), administration (12:59 mins)
- Ventrogluteal injection site training video
- Thigh injection (vastus lateralis) site training video



CABENUVA
cabotegravir + rilpivirine