

Dettaglio abstract

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Title: Real-world effectiveness of switching to bicitgravir/emtricitabine/tenofovir alafenamide (BIC/FTC/TAF) in women living with HIV: subgroup analysis from ICONA-BIC

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Open questions about ART efficacy

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Abstract

Background: Sex-related factors can influence ART outcomes and the overall wellbeing of people living with HIV (PLWH). Women living with HIV (WLWH) are often under-represented in RCT and research studies. BIC/FTC/TAF is a widely used INSTI-based 3-drug regimen in WLWH. The aim of the present sub-analysis from ICONA-BIC study is to evaluate effectiveness of switching to BIC/FTC/TAF in virologically suppressed PLWH, focusing on ART-experienced women compared to men.

Methods: Observational study of PLWH enrolled in the Icona cohort switching to BIC/FTC/TAF while virologically suppressed (baseline). Study period: Apr2018-Dec2021. Exposure of interest: sex at birth (female vs male). Primary endpoint was treatment failure (TF) defined as treatment discontinuation (TD) for any reason or virological failure (VF, 2 consecutive HIV-RNA > 200 copies/ml or 1 HIV-RNA >1000 copies/mL). Four secondary endpoints were evaluated: TF excluding pregnancy as event (TFEP), TD regardless of the reason, TD excluding pregnancy (TDEP) and VF. Statistical analyses included descriptive statistics, and standard survival analysis. Cox-regression models were used to investigate the risk of primary and secondary endpoints in ART-experienced women compared to men.

Results: 1237 subjects have been included. 229 were women (18.5%), 84% Italian, median age 47 years (39-55), 50% MSM, 37% hetero-, median CD4 702 /mm³ (505-928), 86% previously on other 3-drug INSTI. After a median follow-up of 1.36 years (IQR 0.97-1.67) from switch, 112 PLWH (30 W and 82 M) had TF (9.1%) (14 VF and 98 TD). Overall, the KM-estimated probability of TF was 4.6% (95%CI 3.5-6.1) at 1-year, 7.5% (95%CI 4.7-12.0) in women and 4.0% (2.9-5.5) in men (Figure 1A, log-rank p=0.01). After fitting a Cox regression model adjusted for confounders, women showed 2-times higher risk of TF (AOR 2.01; 95%CI 1.17-3.44) (Table1). In the adjusted Cox model, after excluding the 6 pregnancies as events, women were no longer at higher risk of TF (AOR 1.69, 95%CI 0.93-2.90) (Table1).

100/1237 PLWH (26 W and 74 M) had a TD (8.1%): The 1-yr probability of TD was 4.1% (3.1-5.5): 6.6% (3.9-10.9) and 3.6% (2.5-5.0) respectively for women and men (log-rank p=0.03; Fig 1C). The independent risk of TD was higher in women (AOR 1.94, 95%CI 1.09-3.46), but again not after excluding TD due to pregnancy (AOR 1.53, 95%CI 0.82-2.82)(Table1). Details of reasons for TD are reported in Table 3. In the ITT analysis, VF occurred in only 15 PLWH: overall the 1-year probability of VF was of 0.7%

(0.3-1.4), too few cases to infer in sex-related differences (Fig 1D).

Conclusions: In this large real-world study of ART-experienced PLWH switching to BIC/FTC/TAF, the regimen showed high effectiveness (4.6% TF and 0.7% VF by 1-year). The higher risk of TF and TD in females compared to males is related to discontinuation due to pregnancy, and after excluding these the success of BIC/FTC/TAF is similar in men and women. First case reports of BIC/FTC/TAF use in pregnancy are promising but more comprehensive studies need to be completed in pregnant women.

Table 1. Hazard Ratio (HR) and Adjusted Hazard ratio (AHR) of the different endpoints in women vs. men

Treatment Failure						
	HR	95%CI	p	AHR*	95%CI	p
Women (vs Men)	1.72	1.13-2.62	0.011	2.01	1.17-3.44	0.01
						1
Treatment Failure excluding pregnancy						
	HR	95%CI	p	AHR*	95%CI	p
Women (vs Men)	1.38	0.87-2.18	0.164	1.63	0.93-2.90	0.08
						9
Treatment discontinuation						
	HR	95%CI	p	AHR*	95%CI	p
Women (vs Men)	1.63	1.04-2.56	0.031	1.94	1.09-3.46	0.02
						3
Treatment discontinuation excluding pregnancy						
	HR	95%CI	p	AHR*	95%CI	p
Women (vs Men)	1.26	0.77-2.07	0.359	1.53	0.83-2.82	0.17
						6

*Adjusted for nationality and mode of HIV transmission

Table 2. Reasons for treatment discontinuation in ART-experienced group

	n	percent (over n TD)	percent (over tot subjects)
FAILURE	3	3.0%	0.2%
Virological Failure	3		
OTHER	23	23.0%	1.9%
Pregnancy	6		
Enrollment in RCT	7		
Unknown	7		
Other	3		
PATIENT'S DECISION	3	3.0%	0.2%
SIMPLIFICATION	41	41.0%	3.3%
TOXICITY/INTOLERANCE	30	30.0%	2.4%
Renal Toxicity	5		
SNC/SNP Symptoms	7		
Clinical Contraindications	1		
DDI	1		
GI intolerance	4		
Allergic reactions	4		
Hepatic Toxicity	1		
Lipid Metabolism toxicity	3		
Arthromyalgia	2		
Other toxicities	2		

Fig1. KM curves of (A) TF, (B) TFEP, (C) TD according to sex and KM of VF200 (D)

