



EACS 2025 - Scientific News

Second Berlin patient has unusual immune response that seems to have removed his HIV

by Gus Cairns

At the [20th European AIDS Conference](#) (EACS 2025) in Paris last week, delegates received an update on a case of an apparent cure of HIV infection that was first presented at the 2024 International AIDS Conference in Munich.

The 'second Berlin patient' received a stem cell transplant in late 2015 that cured the acute myeloid leukaemia he was suffering from. It also appears to have cured his HIV infection, as he has now been off antiretroviral therapy (ART) for seven years without his HIV reappearing. Researchers have found no DNA in his cells capable of giving rise to new virus, and his antibody response to HIV is fading, indicating there's no virus for the immune system to respond to.

Up until now, however, nothing has been presented on how his body's response to the stem cell transplant and to his HIV somehow achieved this feat.

At EACS, a partial answer was provided: he had so-called natural killer cells from his innate immune system with an unusual genetic profile, which prompted the development of a set of antibodies that were exceptionally efficient in seeking out and destroying whatever HIV-infected cells were left in his body after the stem cell transplant. [Continue reading.](#)

More Europeans are dying from HIV now than 15 years ago

by Gus Cairns

Europe, taken as a whole, is losing some of the gains it has made in tackling the burden of HIV, the [20th European AIDS Conference](#) (EACS 2025) heard in Paris.

Teymur Noori of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) told delegates that Europe would miss out on achieving most of the targets UNAIDS had set for the year 2030.

UNAIDS [first proposed the targets in 2014](#), although they [were revised in 2021](#) to include interim targets for 2025, in recognition of the impact of the COVID pandemic. Since then, however, war in many places including Palestine and Ukraine, deep cuts to global HIV budgets from the US and European countries, and a general rightward shift in world politics have all served to deprioritise HIV as a global health issue. So falling short of those ambitious targets is no great surprise.

Nonetheless, Europe as a whole is the only region of the globe that, [according to UNAIDS' 2023 report](#), saw more deaths due to HIV in 2022 than it did in 2010: while deaths have halved since 2010 globally, they have risen by a third in the World Health Organization's European region, which stretches from western Europe to central Asia. [Continue reading.](#)

Hepatitis B reactivation is rare after switching from tenofovir, two European studies show

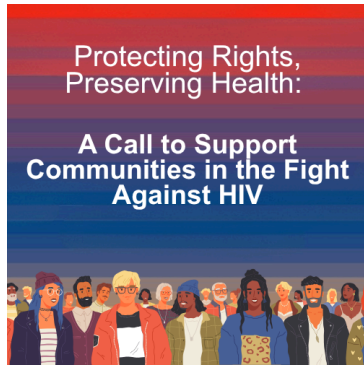
by Keith Alcorn

Two large studies of people switching to tenofovir-sparing regimens presented at the [20th European AIDS Conference](#) (EACS 2025) in Paris show that hepatitis B reactivation is a rare event after the hepatitis B-suppressive drug is removed.

Hepatitis B virus (HBV) can be successfully suppressed by antiretroviral regimens containing tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (TDF) or tenofovir alafenamide (TAF). Switching to a tenofovir-sparing, two-drug HIV treatment regimen poses a risk of hepatitis B reactivation in people with past hepatitis B exposure. As such regimens – including dolutegravir/lamivudine and cabotegravir/rilpivirine – are more widely used, there have been concerns that hepatitis B reactivation may be seen more frequently in people with HIV.

Hepatitis B cccDNA persists in the nucleus of liver cells and cannot be cleared by current hepatitis B antiviral drugs, which stop replication. The withdrawal of antiviral treatment active against hepatitis B can lead to a reactivation of HBV replication. Reactivation can also be triggered by immunosuppression due to ageing or cancers, by immunosuppressive treatment or by loss of vaccine-induced immunity.

The consequences of reactivation can include severe liver inflammation leading to rapid progression of liver disease and onward transmission of hepatitis B. If HBV activity goes undetected for a long time, reactivation could lead to liver cirrhosis or hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC, liver cancer). [Continue reading.](#)



Communities Declaration EACS 2025 Paris

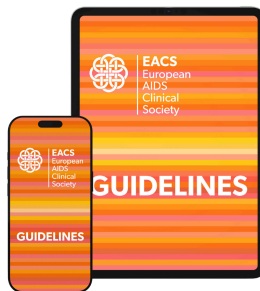
👉 Sign the EACS Paris 2025 Community Declaration and add your voice to those calling for a Europe united in ending HIV.

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EACS Guidelines version 13.0

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