



Guidelines for Prevention and Treatment of Opportunistic Infections in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents

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Table 4. Indications for Discontinuing and Restarting Opportunistic Infection Secondary Prophylaxis or Chronic Maintenance in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents (page 1 of 3) (Last updated July 25, 2017; last reviewed July 25, 2017)

Opportunistic Infection	Indication for Discontinuing Primary Prophylaxis	Indication for Restarting Primary Prophylaxis	Indication for Discontinuing Secondary Prophylaxis/Chronic Maintenance Therapy	Indication for Restarting Secondary Prophylaxis/Chronic Maintenance
<i>Pneumocystis Pneumonia</i>	<p>CD4 count increased from <200 to >200 cells/μL for >3 months in response to ART (AI)</p> <p>Can consider when CD4 count 100-200 cells/μL if HIV RNA remain below limits of detection for at least 3-6 months (BII)</p>	<p>CD4 count <100 cells/mm³ (AIII)</p> <p>CD4 count 100-200 cells/μL and with HIV RNA above detection limit of the assay (AIII).</p>	<p>CD4 count increased from <200 cells/μL to >200 cells/μL for >3 months in response to ART (BII)</p> <p>Can consider when CD4 count 100-200 cells/μL if HIV RNA remain below limits of detection for at least 3-6 months (BII)</p> <p>If PCP occurs at a CD4 count >200 cells/μL while not on ART, discontinuation of prophylaxis can be considered once HIV RNA levels are suppressed to below limits of detection for at least 3 to 6 months (CIII).</p> <p>Note: If PCP occurs at a CD4 count >200 cells/μL while on ART, continue PCP prophylaxis for life, regardless of how high the CD4 cell count rises as a consequence of ART (BIII).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CD4 count <100 cells/μL (AIII) • CD4 count 100-200 cells/μL and with HIV RNA above detection limit of the assay (AIII).
<i>Toxoplasma gondii Encephalitis</i>	<p>CD4 count increased to >200 cells/μL for >3 months in response to ART (AI)</p> <p>Can consider when CD4 count 100-200 cells/μL if HIV RNA remain below limits of detection for at least 3-6 months (BII)</p>	<p>CD4 count <100 cells/μL, (AIII)</p> <p>CD4 count 100-200 cells/μL and with HIV RNA above detection limit of the assay (AIII).</p>	<p>Successfully completed initial therapy, remain free of signs and symptoms of TE, and CD4 count >200 cells/μL for >6 months in response to ART (BI).</p>	<p>CD4 count <200 cells/μL (AIII)</p>
Microsporidiosis	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>No signs and symptoms of non-ocular (BIII) or ocular (CIII) microsporidiosis and CD4 count >200 cells/μL for >6 months in response to ART.</p>	<p>No recommendation</p>
Disseminated <i>Mycobacterium avium</i> Complex Disease	<p>CD4 count >100 cells/μL for ≥3 months in response to ART (AI)</p>	<p>CD4 count <50 cells/μL (AIII)</p>	<p><u>If the following criteria are fulfilled (AI):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed ≥12 months of therapy, <i>and</i> • No signs and symptoms of MAC disease, <i>and</i> • Have sustained (>6 months) CD4 count >100 cells/μL in response to ART. 	<p>CD4 count <100 cells/μL (AIII)</p>
Salmonellosis	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Resolution of <i>Salmonella</i> infection and after response to ART with sustained viral suppression and CD4 counts >200 cells/μL (CII)</p>	<p>No recommendation</p>

Table 4. Indications for Discontinuing and Restarting Opportunistic Infection Secondary Prophylaxis or Chronic Maintenance in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents (page 2 of 3)

Opportunistic Infection	Indication for Discontinuing Primary Prophylaxis	Indication for Restarting Primary Prophylaxis	Indication for Discontinuing Secondary Prophylaxis/Chronic Maintenance Therapy	Indication for Restarting Secondary Prophylaxis/Chronic Maintenance
Bartonellosis	Not applicable	Not applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received at least 3–4 months of treatment, <i>and</i> CD4 count >200 cells/μL for ≥6 months (CIII) Some specialists would only discontinue therapy if <i>Bartonella</i> titers have also decreased by four-fold (CIII). 	No recommendation
Mucosal Candidiasis	Not applicable	Not applicable	If used, reasonable to discontinue when CD4 count >200 cells/μL (AIII) .	No recommendation
Cryptococcal Meningitis	Not applicable	Not applicable	<p><u>If the following criteria are fulfilled (BII):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed initial (induction and consolidation) therapy, <i>and</i> Received at least 1 year of maintenance therapy, <i>and</i> Remain asymptomatic of cryptococcal infection, <i>and</i> CD4 count ≥100 cells/μL for >3 months, and with suppressed plasma HIV RNA in response to ART 	CD4 count <100 cells/μL (AIII)
<i>Histoplasma capsulatum</i> Infection	CD4 count >150 cells/μL for 6 months while on ART (BIII)	For patients at high risk of acquiring histoplasmosis, restart at CD4 count <150 cells/μL (CIII)	<p><u>If the following criteria (AI) are fulfilled:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received itraconazole for >1 year, <i>and</i> Negative fungal blood cultures, <i>and</i> CD4 count ≥150 cells/μL for ≥6 months in response to ART, <i>and</i> Serum <i>Histoplasma</i> antigen <2 ng/mL 	CD4 count <150 cells/mm ³ (BIII)
Coccidioidomycosis	CD4 count ≥250 cells/μL and with viral suppression while on ART (CIII)	Restart at CD4 count <250 cells/μL (BIII)	<p><u>Only for patients with focal coccidioidal pneumonia (AII):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clinically responded to ≥ 6 months antifungal therapy, with CD4 count ≥250 cells/mm³, and with viral suppression while on ART. Should continue monitoring for recurrence with serial chest radiographs and coccidioidal serology every 6-12 months. <p><u>For patients with diffuse pulmonary (BIII), disseminated non-meningeal (BIII):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Therapy is at least 12 months and usually much longer; discontinuation is dependent on clinical and serological response and should be made in consultation with experts <p><u>For meningeal diseases (AII):</u></p> <p>Suppressive therapy should be continued indefinitely, even with increase in CD4 count on ART.</p>	No recommendation

Table 4. Indications for Discontinuing and Restarting Opportunistic Infection Secondary Prophylaxis or Chronic Maintenance in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents (page 3 of 3)

Opportunistic Infection	Indication for Discontinuing Primary Prophylaxis	Indication for Restarting Primary Prophylaxis	Indication for Discontinuing Secondary Prophylaxis/Chronic Maintenance Therapy	Indication for Restarting Secondary Prophylaxis/Chronic Maintenance
Cytomegalovirus Retinitis	Not applicable	Not applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMV treatment for at least 3 to 6 months; and with CD4 count >100 cells/μL for >3 to 6 months in response to ART (AII). • Therapy should be discontinued only after consultation with an ophthalmologist, taking into account anatomic location of lesions, vision in the contralateral eye, and feasibility of regular ophthalmologic monitoring. • Routine (i.e., every 3 months) ophthalmologic follow-up is recommended after stopping therapy for early detection of relapse or immune restoration uveitis, and then periodically after sustained immune reconstitution (AIII). 	CD4 count <100 cells/μL (AIII)
<i>Penicillium marneffei</i> Infection	CD4 count >100 cells/μL for >6 months in response to ART (BII)	CD4 count <100 cells/μL (BIII)	CD4 count >100 cells/μL for ≥6 months in response to ART (BII)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CD4 count <100 cells/μL (AIII), or • If penicilliosis recurs at CD4 count >100 cells/μL (CIII)
Visceral Leishmaniasis (and possibly cutaneous leishmaniasis in immunocompromised patients with multiple relapses)	Not applicable	Not applicable	There is no consensus regarding when to stop secondary prophylaxis. Some investigators suggest that therapy can be stopped if CD4 count increases to >200 to 350 cells/μL for 3–6 months in response to ART, but others suggest that therapy should be continued indefinitely.	No recommendation
<i>Isospora belli</i> Infection	Not applicable	Not applicable	Sustained increase in CD4 count to >200 cells/μL for >6 months in response to ART and without evidence of <i>I. belli</i> infection (BIII)	No recommendation

Key to Acronyms: ART = antiretroviral therapy; CD4 = CD4 T lymphocyte cell; CMV = cytomegalovirus; MAC = *Mycobacterium avium* complex; PCP = *Pneumocystis pneumonia*; TE = *Toxoplasma encephalitis*

Evidence Rating:

Strength of Recommendation:

- A: Strong recommendation for the statement
- B: Moderate recommendation for the statement
- C: Optional recommendation for the statement

Quality of Evidence for the Recommendation:

- I: One or more randomized trials with clinical outcomes and/or validated laboratory endpoints
- II: One or more well-designed, nonrandomized trials or observational cohort studies with long-term clinical outcomes
- III: Expert opinion

In cases where there are no data for the prevention or treatment of an OI based on studies conducted in HIV-infected populations, but data derived from HIV-uninfected patients exist that can plausibly guide management decisions for patients with HIV/AIDS, the data will be rated as III but will be assigned recommendations of A, B, C depending on the strength of recommendation.