

IMPORTANT TERMS IN ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY

Term	Description
Antiretroviral Therapy (ART)	ART refers to any of a range of treatments that include antiretroviral (ARV) medications. These drugs are designed to destroy retroviruses or interfere with their ability to replicate. ART suppresses the ability of HIV to multiply, slowing the progression of the disease. The six classes of antiretroviral drugs currently available are nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTI), non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTI), protease inhibitors (PI), fusion inhibitors, entry inhibitors and HIV integrase strand transfer inhibitors. The drugs on the following pages are all antiretrovirals.
Combination Therapy	The use of two or more antiretrovirals in combination.
Entry Inhibitors – CCR5 Co-receptor Antagonist	Entry inhibitors constitute a new class of antiretrovirals designed to combat infections that are increasingly resistant to older therapies. They are designed to disrupt the ability of HIV to enter a host cell through the cell's surface and they target the CCR5 receptor.
Food and Drug Administration (FDA)	The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' agency responsible for ensuring the safety and effectiveness of all drugs, biologics, vaccines and medical devices, including those used in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of HIV infection, AIDS and AIDS-related opportunistic infections. The FDA also works with the blood-banking industry to safeguard the nation's blood supply.
Fusion Inhibitor	Fusion Inhibitors are a class of ART that work by blocking HIV from entering target cells and preventing it from multiplying, since HIV needs to be inside the cells to make copies of itself.
Generic Drug	A drug that is identical or bioequivalent to a brand name drug in dosage, safety, strength, how it is taken, quality, performance and intended use. The generic name of a drug is the common name of the drug and not protected under any manufacturer's copyright. It is the more commonly used format when referring to a drug in medical literature or the media. Generic sometimes refers to less expensive but chemically identical medications manufactured by companies that did not invent the drug. In some countries, generic drugs come on the market after a patent on the drug has expired. In other countries, generic drugs are manufactured and sold even before a patent expires.
HAART (Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy)	Refers to ARV treatment regimens that act aggressively to suppress the replication of HIV and progression of HIV disease. The usual HAART regimen involves the use of three or more antiretrovirals.
HIV Integrase Strand Transfer inhibitors	HIV integrase inhibitors are a relatively new class of antiretrovirals. They are designed to interfere with a part of the replication process by preventing the HIV integrase protein from inserting HIV's genetic information into an infected cell's own DNA.
Multi-class Combination Products	Multi-class combination products combine various classes of HIV antiretroviral drugs to increase the efficacy of treatment and the ease of staying on the prescribed medication. The only multi-class combination product available (Atripla, as of Spring, 2008) is taken once a day and combines three known and proven HIV treatments.
Nucleoside Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitor (NRTI)	Nucleoside Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitors are a class of ART that block the replication of HIV by interfering with Reverse Transcriptase (RT), a protein that HIV needs to make more copies of itself.

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Non-Nucleoside Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitor (NNRTI)	Non-nucleoside Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitors are a class of ART that block the replication of HIV by interfering with Reverse Transcriptase, a protein that HIV needs to make more copies of itself. NNRTIs work in a slightly different way than NRTIs.
Protease Inhibitor (PI)	Protease Inhibitors are a class of ART that act by blocking the function of protease, a protein that HIV needs to make more copies of itself.
Single Tablet Regimen (STR)	A single, daily pill that contains multiple antiretroviral drugs. The treatment can greatly simplify combination therapy, which can require patients to take as many as 30 or more pills a day.
Trade/Brand Name	The trade name is the name designated by the drug manufacturer. The first letter of the trade name is capitalized.