

Zostavax[®] is Generally Safe and Immunogenic in HIV-Infected Adults with CD4 Counts ≥ 200 Cells/ μ L Virologically Suppressed on ART: Results of a Phase 2, Randomized, Placebo-Controlled Trial

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Abstract #96



Background and Rationale

- Incidence/severity of herpes zoster (HZ) and post-herpetic neuralgia (PHN) is increased in HIV-infected patients, particularly in those with immunosuppression or immune reconstitution inflammatory syndrome
- Early antiviral therapy (e.g. acyclovir) may not abort HZ or prevent PHN and is less effective in those with advanced immunosuppression
- Zoster vaccine (Zostavax[®] [ZV]; Merck) reduced incidence and severity of HZ (by 51.3% and 61.1%, respectively) and PHN (by 66%) in healthy adults ≥ 60 years of age



A5247 Study Hypotheses

- **Primary:** Two doses of ZV will be generally well tolerated in HIV-infected adults with conserved immune function (CD4 T cell count ≥ 200 cells/ μL) who are virologically suppressed on antiretroviral therapy (ART)
- **Secondary:** The geometric mean titer (GMT) of varicella zoster virus (VZV) antibody, as measured by glycoprotein enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (gpELISA), 6 weeks post vaccination will be higher in ZV recipients than in placebo recipients

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A5247 Study Design

- Multicenter (43 sites), double-blind, randomized (3:1), placebo-controlled safety, tolerability and immunogenicity study (N=395) of 2 doses of ZV administered on day 0 and at week 6
- **Inclusion Criteria:**
 - HIV-infected person age ≥ 18 years on stable ART; undetectable plasma HIV RNA; CD4 ≥ 200 cells/ μL
 - Hemoglobin ≥ 7.0 gm/dL; platelet count $\geq 50,000$ / μL ; creatinine $\leq 3 \times \text{ULN}$; AST, ALT and alkaline phosphatase $\leq 5 \times \text{ULN}$
 - History of varicella or HZ >1 year prior to entry or VZV seropositive at any time prior to entry

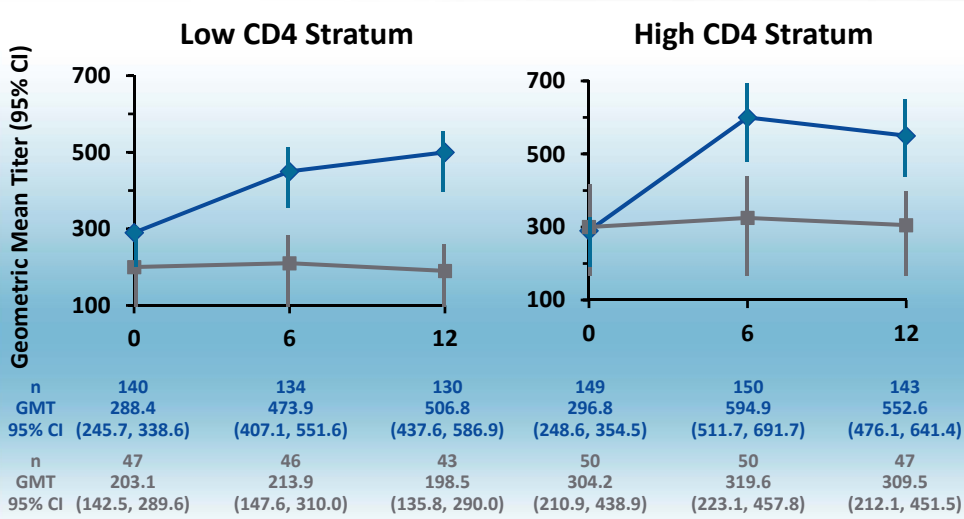
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A5247 Primary Safety Results

	ZV (N=295) N (Estimate % [95% CI])	Placebo (N=97) N (Estimate % [95% CI])	P-Value**
Primary Safety Endpoints	15 5.1% [2.9, 8.2]*	2 2.1% [0.3, 7.3]	0.261
Injection Site Reactions	124 42.0% [36.3, 47.9]	12 12.4% [6.6, 20.6]	<0.001
Rash	15 5.1% [2.9, 8.2]	4 4.1% [1.1, 10.2]	1.00
Fever	12 4.1% [2.1, 7.0]	6 6.2% [2.3, 13.0]	0.405

*Based on exact permutation, adj. for 2-stage design;
 ** Fisher's exact test
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VZV gpELISA Titers by CD4 Stratum



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