

# Conference Report: EACS 2025

20<sup>th</sup> Conference of the  
European AIDS Clinical Society

Paris, France  
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## What We Learned: Key Findings

**Hepatitis B reactivation is rare after switching from tenofovir.** Two large European studies show that hepatitis B reactivation is rare in people living with HIV after the hepatitis B-suppressive drug is removed. However, vaccination is still essential to protect against acute hepatitis B infection.

**HIV-related mortality in Europe higher now than 15 years ago.** In a Plenary Lecture, Teymur Noori of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control summarized three studies showing that Europe as a whole is the only region of the globe that saw more deaths due to HIV in 2022 than in 2010.

**‘Second Berlin Patient’ remains HIV-free seven years after stem cell transplant.** A presentation at the conference described the patient’s unusual immune reaction and discussed how harnessing this knowledge could broaden the repertoire of approaches towards a possible cure.

## What We Shared: CTN+ At EACS

Through a series of interviews, a team of investigators, including Quebec Co-Lead Dr. Bertrand Lebouché, found that both **talk therapy and medication had limited success in treating sexual dysfunction in gay, bisexual, and other MSM with HIV in Montreal.**

**Quebec  
Regional Team**

Using blood collected from people living with HIV on ART, a team of researchers including Quebec Co-Lead Dr. Madeleine Durand, investigated a protein called GDF15, used as a marker for aging and cardiovascular disease. Independent of inflammation, **this biomarker was associated with other markers of HIV reservoir persistence and comorbidities**, warranting further investigation.

Participants in a pilot study led by the Quebec Regional Team reported **high satisfaction and confidence in self-management when provided free and rapid combination antiviral medication** finds a team of researchers.

Preliminary findings from a scoping review of HIV clinical guidelines conducted by Dr. Lebouché and colleagues found that **despite consensus on the importance of timely ART, HIV clinical guidelines from around the world differ in how they label, define, justify, and grade recommended ART initiation timing.**

Human herpes virus 8 (HHV8) causes Kaposi Sarcome (KS) in people living with HIV, but little is known about how the immune system controls HHV8 latency or replication. The ENGAGE team (**CTN 300**) found that in both KS patients and symptom-free carriers, **high levels of anti-HHV8 antibodies were associated with lower levels of HHV-8**, but whether these antibodies could prevent KS is unknown.

The I-Score team (**CTN 283**) found that a **new format for digital administration of a patient-reported outcome measure of barriers to antiretroviral access in HIV care has proven to be highly feasible and acceptable**.

New research from The Quebec Cohort Study (**CTN 336**) found that although people engaged in care in the Cohort overall **meet the 2025 UNAIDS targets for elimination of HIV, success varies by demographic subgroups**.

Results from **CTNPT 047** showed that 3-month treatment with the anti-cytomegalovirus (CMV) drug **letermovir was safe and reduced anti-CMV antibodies levels, but did not affect gut permeability or systemic inflammation** in people living with HIV on ART.

The CHANGE HIV team (**CTN 314**) found that **while the Rotterdam Healthy Aging Score is valid in some respects, its inconsistency means it may need to be adapted**. In a separate analysis, the team also found that **composition of the gut microbiome did not seem to be correlated with different Rotterdam Healthy Aging Scores**.

## Prevention Think Tank

Prevention & Testing Co-Leads Drs. Darrell Tan and Trevor Hart, and team found that **providing more options for HIV PrEP increases uptake among Toronto sexual minority men** by allowing people to choose the most appropriate option for themselves.

## CTN+ Researchers at EACS 2025

Research by Drs. Isnard, Bernard, Routy, and team reported that **extracellular acyl-CoA-binding protein (ACBP) prevents autophagy and T-cell function in people with HIV**, calling for the development of ACBP inhibitors to improve anti-HIV T-cell responses in people living with HIV as part of a potential cure.

Dr. Kathleen O'Brien and colleagues found that **uncertainty is a major dimension of disability in adults living with HIV, and that exercise can moderate disability experiences**. In two updated systematic reviews and meta-analyses, Dr. O'Brien and team reported additional evidence that progressive resistance and aerobic exercise, or a combination of the two, are safe and effective for people living with HIV, conferring benefits for cardiorespiratory fitness, strength, body composition, and quality of life.

Looking for more from the CTN+? Visit our website at [ctnplus.ca](https://ctnplus.ca) to explore our studies, researchers, and resources.

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