

Lipid Changes in Real-world Studies With the 2-Drug Regimen Dolutegravir and Lamivudine (DTG + 3TC) in People With HIV-1: A Systematic Literature Review

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Key Takeaways

- A systematic literature review of real-world studies was performed to assess the effect of dolutegravir and lamivudine (DTG + 3TC) on lipid parameters in antiretroviral therapy (ART)-naive and virologically suppressed switch populations
- Overall, outcomes from real-world observational studies from a variety of geographic regions and various pre-switch ART regimens generally showed improvements or no changes in lipid parameters after initiating or switching to DTG + 3TC, reflecting findings from clinical trials
- Few studies reporting lipid outcomes, small numbers of ART-naive participants assessed, and lack of data on lipid-modifying agents and lifestyle factors that could affect lipids indicate current data gaps in real-world studies

Introduction

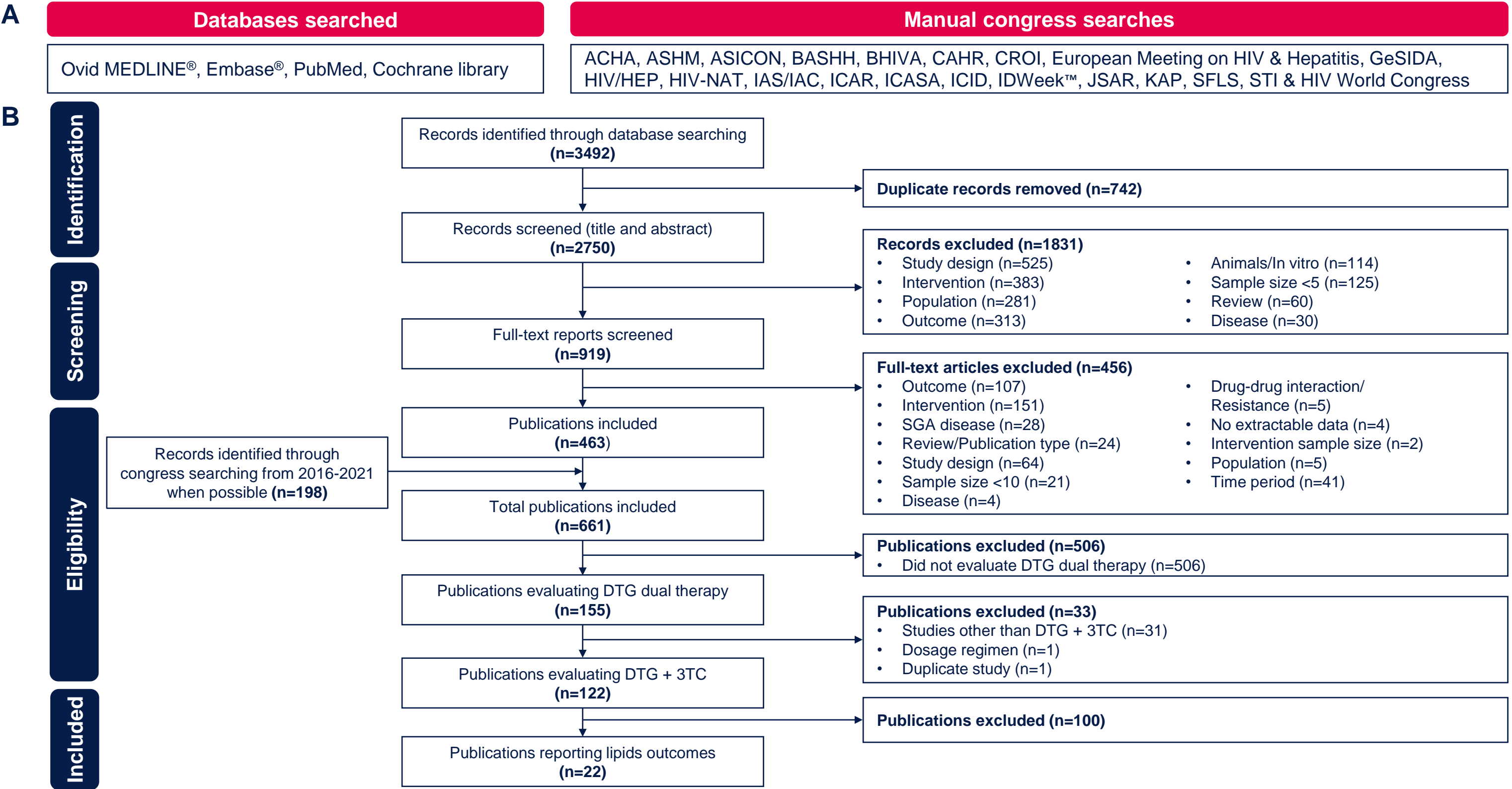
- Virologically suppressed people with HIV-1 (PWH) experienced generally favorable changes in lipid parameters when switching to DTG/3TC from boosted TAF-based regimens through 144 weeks in the TANGO study¹ and minimal changes in lipids when switching from various ART regimens through 48 weeks in the SALSA study²
- In ART-naive PWH, favorable decreases in total cholesterol/HDL-C ratio were observed in both those initiating DTG + 3TC or a regimen containing lipid-modifying TDF (DTG + TDF/FTC) through Week 144 in the GEMINI-1/-2 studies³
- Randomized controlled trials (RCTs) are conducted under controlled settings in selected populations that may not always be representative of the population of interest, and RCTs may not report non-effectiveness outcomes that are important for overall health when living with HIV-1, such as treatment effect on lipid profiles over longer time periods
- Real-world evidence (RWE) can complement RCT results by reporting outcomes for individuals who would normally be excluded from RCTs⁴ as well as fill data gaps related to other endpoints meaningful to PWH
- Here, we summarize RWE on the effect of DTG + 3TC on lipid parameters in ART-naive or suppressed switch settings

Methods

- We conducted a systematic literature review according to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) statement
- RWE studies reporting on DTG + 3TC use in PWH were retrieved from Ovid MEDLINE®, Embase®, PubMed, Cochrane library, and relevant international conference proceedings from January 2013 to February 2022 (Figure 1)
- Publications providing data on lipid parameters associated with DTG + 3TC use were included
- Lipid outcome analyses were based on the “main study” representing its cohort, defined as the study with the highest reported N values; if 2 or more studies reported the same N values in a cohort, the most recent study was chosen

ACHA, Asian Conference on Hepatitis and AIDS; ASHM, Australasian HIV & AIDS Conference; ASICON, National Conference of AIDS Society of India; BASHH, British Association for Sexual Health and HIV; BHIVA, British HIV Association; CAHR, Canadian Conference on HIV/AIDS Research; CROI, Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections; GeSIDA, Grupo de Estudio del SIDA-SEIMC; HIV/HEP, HIV & Hepatitis in the Americas; HIV-NAT, The HIV Netherlands Australia Thailand Research Collaboration; IAS/IAAC, International AIDS Society/International AIDS Conference; ICAR, International Conference on Antiviral Research; ICASA, International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa; ICID, International Congress on Infectious Diseases; JSAR, Japanese Society for AIDS Research; KAP, Kenya Association of Physicians; SGA, small for gestational age; SFLS, Société Française De Lutte Contre Le Sida; STI, sexually transmitted infection.

Figure 1. (A) Databases and Congress Searches Included and (B) PRISMA Flow Diagram



Results

Cohorts and Studies

- This systematic literature review includes 122 publications from 103 RWE studies of 44 unique cohorts (N=8034) reporting on DTG + 3TC use
- Of these 44 cohorts, 8 reported data on lipid outcomes in 22 studies (N=1141 PWH), including 20 studies of virologically suppressed PWH (n=1094)⁵⁻²⁴ and 2 of ART-naive PWH (n=47)^{25,26} initiating DTG + 3TC (Table 1)

Participant Demographics and Characteristics

- Among suppressed cohorts reporting lipid outcomes, mean/median age ranged from 47.1 to 60.5 years, 74% of PWH were male, and various ART regimens were used before switch (median ART duration, 8.4-13 years; Table 2)
 - Duration of follow-up ranged from 30 weeks to 5 years
 - In these studies, DTG + 3TC was associated with generally improved lipid profiles, with reductions or no changes in most lipid parameters reported (Figure 2)
- Among ART-naive cohorts reporting lipid outcomes, median age ranged from 31 to 34.5 years and 89% of PWH were male (Table 2)
 - Duration of follow-up was 15.4 person-years in one cohort and 48 weeks in the other
 - Lipid outcomes for these studies are summarized in Figure 2

Table 2. Selected Demographics and Baseline Characteristics by Treatment Experience and Study

Virologically suppressed PWH who switched to DTG + 3TC								
Main study (N)	Country	Age, median (IQR), y ^a	Sex, n (%)	Prior duration of ART, median (IQR), y ^a	Prior ART regimen	NRTIs	Core agents	CD4+ cell count at switch, cells/mm ³ , median (IQR) ^a
Baldin 2019 (N=556) ⁶	Italy	51.7 (45.3-57.4)	Male, 391 (70.3)	11.5 (6.1-18.3)	Dual therapy: 40.7%, triple therapy: 55.2%; TDF/FTC: 41.9%	NNRTI: 25.6%, PI or bPI: 14.0%, INI: 16.2%		668 (495-890)
Calza 2020 (N=59) ¹⁵	Italy	47.1 (18.5) ^b	Male, 43 (72.9)	8.4 (2.6) ^b	ABC/3TC: 49.1%, TDF/FTC: 45.8%, TAF/FTC: 10.2%	DTG: 59.3%, bDRV: 18.6%, EVG/c: 13.6%		598 (217) ^b
Hidalgo-Tenorio 2019 (N=177) ¹⁷	Spain	48.5 (14.2) ^b	Male, 137 (77.4)	13 (4-18)	bPI monotherapy (LPV- or DRV-based): 16.4%; dual therapy (various ART regimens): 18.1%; triple therapy: 65.5%	DTG: 59.3%, bDRV: 18.6%, EVG/c: 13.6%		697.7 (337.2) ^b
Maggiolo 2021 (N=218) ²⁰	Multinational (Italy, 94%)	52 (12)	Male, 164 (75.2)	10.2 (13)	NRTI: 93.6%; TDF: 59.2%, ABC: 27.5%	NNRTI: 49.5%, EFV: 18.8%; PI: 32.6%, DRV: 14.7%; INI: 22.5%, RAL: 11.0%		669 (446)
Tan 2019 (N=52) ²¹	UK	60.5	Male, 44 (84.6)	9.4	TDF: 64.3%, ABC: 62.5%	EFV: 48.2%, DRV/r: 44.6%		94% with >350 cells/mm ³
Yagci-Caglayik 2017 (N=32) ²³	Turkey	54 (41-64) ^c	Male, 27 (84.4)	Not reported	TDF/FTC: 66%, 3TC: 25%	PI: 50%, LPV/r: 41%; NNRTI: 13%, EFV: 13%; INSTI: 53%, RAL: 22%, DTG: 22%		272 (131-471)
ART-naive PWH who initiated DTG + 3TC								
Study (N)	Country	Age, median (IQR), y ^a	Sex, n (%)	HIV-1 RNA, median (IQR), c/mL ^a	CD4+ cell count, cells/mm ³ , median (IQR) ^a			
Deng 2022 (N=27) ²⁵	China	31 (24-38) ^c	Male, 27 (100)	61,100 (33,500-229,000) ^c	222.07 (176.67) ^b			
Ciccullo 2021 (N=20) ²⁶	Italy	34.5 (25.2-53.5)	Male, 15 (75.0)	4.78 log ₁₀ (4.01-5.00)	342 (239-472)			

^aUnless otherwise indicated. ^bMean (SD). ^cMedian (range).

Figure 2. Summary of Lipid Parameter Outcomes From RWE Cohorts Switching to or Initiating DTG + 3TC^a

Main study (cohort)	N	Time of lipid assessment	Total cholesterol, mg/dL	Change from BL	LDL-C, mg/dL	Change from BL	HDL-C, mg/dL	Change from BL	Total cholesterol/HDL-C ratio	Change from BL	Triglycerides, mg/dL	Change from BL
Virologically suppressed PWH who switched to DTG + 3TC												
Baldin 2019 (ODOACRE) ⁶	556	144 wk	Median change from BL, −9.1	+ <i>P</i> =0.007	NR		Median change from BL, 5.4	+ <i>P</i> =0.036	NR		Median change from BL, −2.7	+ <i>P</i> =0.009
Calza 2020 ¹⁵	59	12 mo	Mean (SD) change from BL, 10.4 (5.9)	= <i>P</i> =0.338	Mean (SD) change from BL, 5.5 (2.8)	= <i>P</i> =0.511	Mean (SD) change from BL, 0.7 (0.2)	= <i>P</i> =0.768	NR		Mean (SD) change from BL, −11.9 (7.9)	= <i>P</i> =0.671
Hidalgo-Tenorio 2019 (DOLAMA) ¹⁷	177	48 wk	Mean (SD): BL, 195.3 (52) Wk 48, 187.7 (57.17)	+ <i>P</i> =0.002	Mean (SD): BL, 93.08 (43.19) Wk 48, 107.81 (37.6)	− <i>P</i> =0.003	Mean (SD): BL, 74.02 (46.51) Wk 48, 49.1 (15.24)	− <i>P</i> =0.002	Mean (SD): BL, 3.49 (1.84) Wk 48, 4.13 (1.51)	− <i>P</i> =0.018	Mean (SD): BL, 212.3 (244.9) Wk 48, 164.6 (213.27)	+ <i>P</i> =0.0001
Maggiolo 2021 ²⁰	218	5 y	NR	+ <i>P</i> =0.001 ^b	NR		NR	= NS ^c	NR		NR	= NS ^c
Tan 2019 ²¹	52	>1 y	Mean unfasted cholesterol: BL, 5.65; >1 y, 5.16	= NS	NR		NR		NR		NR	
Yagci-Caglayik 2017 (HIVTR) ²³	32	Median 30 wk	NR	= NS ^c	NR		NR	= NS ^c	NR		NR	= NS ^c
ART-naive PWH who initiated DTG + 3TC												
Deng 2022 ²⁵	27	48 wk	Elevated levels; hypercholesterolemia after ART (n=1; 3.7%)	NA ^d	Elevated levels after ART (n=1; 3.7%)	NA ^d	Elevated levels after ART (n=2; 7.4%)	NA ^d	NR		Elevated levels; hypertriglyceridemia after ART (n=3; 11.1%)	NA ^d
Ciccullo 2021 (ODOACRE) ²⁶	20	15.4 PYFU	NR	= NS ^c	NR		NR	= NS ^c	NR		NR	

BL, baseline; NA, not available; NR, not reported; NS, not statistically significant; PYFU, person-years of follow-up. ^aPoint estimates for lipid changes were not available for any cohort. ^b*P* value was the only value reported in the publication. ^cResults were described as not significant and no other values were reported in the publication.

^dNo statistical data were provided for change from baseline. Data shown are n (%) of PWH with elevated lipid parameters after ART initiation. ^eImproved was defined as an increase from baseline in HDL-C and as a decrease from baseline in total cholesterol, LDL-C, total cholesterol/HDL-C ratio, and triglycerides.

+ Improved^e − Worsened = Did not change

Conclusions

- Consistent with clinical trial experience, RWE data from >1000 PWH suggest that switching to DTG/3TC from various ART regimens or initiating DTG + 3TC has positive or minimal effects on lipid profiles
 - Virologically suppressed PWH generally experienced improvements or no changes in lipid profiles after switching to DTG + 3TC in most cohorts; 1 cohort observed unfavorable changes in LDL-C, HDL-C, and total cholesterol/HDL-C ratio
 - ART-naive PWH initiating DTG + 3TC experienced minimal impact on lipid profiles
- A data gap exists among RWE regarding the effect of DTG + 3TC on lipid profiles due to the lack of studies reporting lipid outcomes
 - A neutral effect on lipids is an important factor in overall health when living with HIV-1; additional RWE studies are needed to learn more about these outcomes and other HIV-1 treatment endpoints relevant to PWH

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