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# The Power of Choice: Perspectives From Healthcare Providers on Early Switch to CAB + RPV LA After Rapid Suppression With DTG/3TC

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# Disclosures

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- Dr Gutner is an employee of ViiV Healthcare and a stockholder of GSK.

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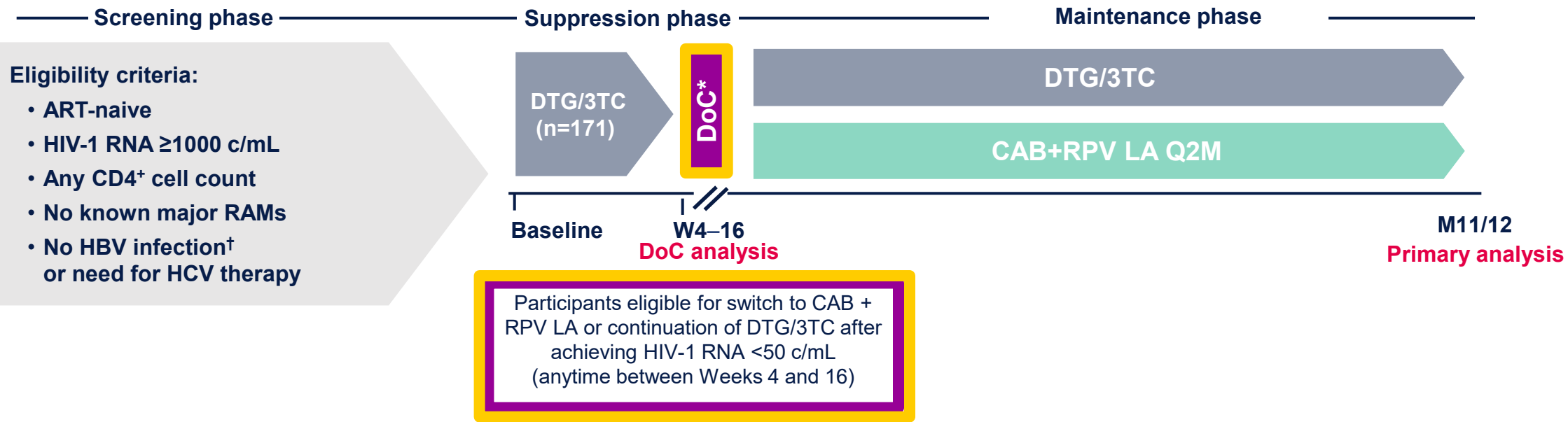
# Introduction

- VOLITION is the first study to evaluate an optional switch from dolutegravir/lamivudine (DTG/3TC) to long-acting cabotegravir plus rilpivirine (CAB + RPV LA) immediately after rapid virologic suppression in antiretroviral therapy (ART)-naive adults with HIV-1
  - Median time to suppression with DTG/3TC was 4.1 weeks (95% Confidence Interval: 4.1–4.3)<sup>1</sup>
  - 89% (n=129/145) of eligible participants chose to switch to CAB + RPV LA at Day of Choice (DoC)<sup>2</sup>
- Here we present healthcare provider views at DoC regarding early switch to CAB + RPV LA immediately after rapid virologic suppression with DTG/3TC, which are essential for driving person-centered care

1. Córdova E, et al. IAS 2025 (Poster WEPEB033). 2. Felizarta F. et al. IAS 2025 (Poster EP0170).

# Offering Newly Suppressed PWH the Choice of Early Switch to CAB + RPV LA Immediately After Attaining Virologic Suppression

Phase 3b, multicenter, non-randomized, parallel-group, open-label, study evaluating the efficacy, safety and participant experience data following the option to switch from DTG/3TC to CAB + RPV LA after attaining viral suppression



\*Participants will proceed to DoC at their next study visit following the first plasma HIV-1 RNA result <50 c/mL (Week 4 at the earliest but no later than Week 16). Participants must be suppressed to <50 c/mL in order to qualify for the option to switch to CAB + RPV LA. Exclusion criteria for switch included: treatment-emergent ALT  $\geq 5 \times \text{ULN}$ ; or ALT  $\geq 3 \times \text{ULN}$  and bilirubin  $\geq 1.5 \times \text{ULN}$  (with >35% direct bilirubin) and pregnancy. <sup>†</sup>Participants positive for HBsAg were excluded. Participants negative for anti-HBs but positive for anti-HBc were excluded only if HBV DNA was detected.

3TC, lamivudine; ALT, alanine aminotransferase; anti-HBs, hepatitis B surface antibody; ART, antiretroviral therapy; CAB, cabotegravir; DoC, Day of Choice; DTG, dolutegravir; HBc, hepatitis B core antigen; HBV, hepatitis B virus; HBsAg, hepatitis B surface antigen; HCV, hepatitis C virus; LA, long-acting; M, month; PWH, people with HIV; Q2M, every 2 months; RAM, resistance-associated mutation; RPV, rilpivirine; ULN, upper limit of normal; W, week.

# A Mixed-Methods Approach Assessed Provider Perceptions of Choice and Impact of Shared Decision-Making on Newly Suppressed PWH

- Providers completed electronic **quantitative questionnaires** (n=101) at baseline and DoC, and **qualitative interviews** (n=80) at DoC to assess the acceptability, feasibility, perceptions, barriers to and facilitators of providing the **option to switch to CAB + RPV LA**
- The acceptability and feasibility of the option to switch to CAB + RPV LA were assessed using the 4-item Acceptability of Intervention (AIM) and Feasibility of Intervention (FIM) measures rated on 1–5 Likert scale (1 = completely disagree and 5 = completely agree)
- Qualitative data were analysed using a framework analysis approach

## Locations of the providers (n=101)



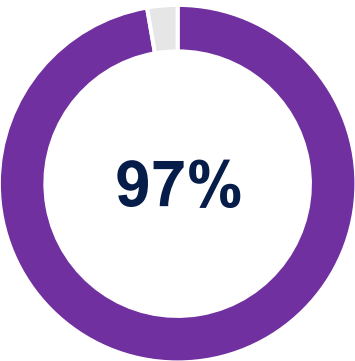
### Provider role (n=80, qualitative interviews):\*†

- Principal investigator: n=15
- Site coordinator: n=39
- Other (including nurse or sub-investigator): n=26

\*Locations for providers who participated in qualitative interviews at DoC: North America (n=36/80) - United States (30), Canada (4), Puerto Rico (2). South America (n=11/80) – Argentina (8), Chile (3). Europe (n=33/80) – Spain (15), France (10), Italy (6), Germany (2).

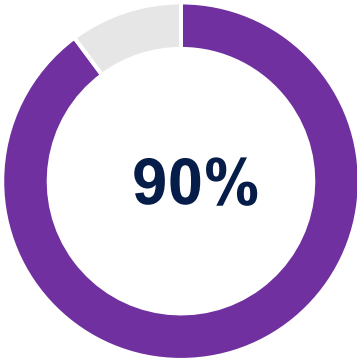
CAB, cabotegravir; DoC, Day of Choice; LA, long-acting; PWH, people with HIV; RPV, rilpivirine.

# Providers Indicated Confidence In and Satisfaction With CAB + RPV LA



**Providers shared positive perspectives of CAB + RPV LA (n=71/73\*)**

- 28% (n=20/71) of those noted CAB+RPV LA fits lifestyles/increases autonomy of PWH



**Providers reported confidence in CAB + RPV LA efficacy and satisfaction with the treatment (n=53/59\*)**

- 81% (n=43/53) cited prior clinical experience as the main reason for confidence and satisfaction with CAB + RPV LA

*“ I am absolutely confident. As I mentioned earlier, with the previous experience we had, I am totally confident and with peace of mind as to the efficacy of the treatment. – Argentina ”*

\*73/80 providers discussed perceptions about CAB + RPV LA in their qualitative interview; 59/80 providers discussed their confidence or satisfaction with the efficacy and safety of CAB + RPV LA in their qualitative interview.  
CAB, cabotegravir; LA, long-acting; PWH, people with HIV; RPV, rilpivirine.

# Offering the Choice to Switch Immediately After Virologic Suppression Has More Perceived Advantages Than Disadvantages

## Advantages of switching to CAB + RPV LA\*

The option helps PWH who are tired of taking pills every day

**73%**  
(n=69/101)

The option reduces stress or anxiety over daily adherence

**73%**  
(n=69/101)

The option helps PWH who are concerned about disclosure of their HIV status/others finding their pills

**72%**  
(n=68/101)

## Disadvantages of switching to CAB + RPV LA\*

Healthcare teams/systems may not have systems in place to adequately track changes between DTG/3TC and CAB + RPV LA

**35%**  
(n=33/101)

The flexibility provided may prevent PWH from forming a routine with their treatment

**27%**  
(n=26/101)

**There are no disadvantages**

**27%**  
(n=26/101)

- At DoC, offering the choice to switch shortly after suppression was highly feasible and acceptable (FIM: 4.3 [0.84], n=74; AIM: 4.4 [0.79], n=74)<sup>†</sup>

\*Responses are not mutually exclusive. <sup>†</sup>Mean [standard deviation]; 1=completely disagree and 5=completely agree.  
 AIM, Acceptability of Intervention; CAB, cabotegravir; DoC, Day of Choice; FIM, Feasibility of Intervention; LA, long-acting; PWH, people with HIV; RPV, rilpivirine.

# Shared Decision-Making Enables Newly Suppressed PWH to Make a Fully-Informed, Personalized Decision on Their Treatment

- 81% (n=65/80) of providers discussed whether they had used the shared decision-making tool
- 29% (n=19/65) reported they had used the **study specific shared decision-making tool**
- Providers who used it found it **clear** and **useful**, placing emphasis on the importance of shared decision-making
- Prior experience with prescribing ART and an established practice of shared decision-making instills confidence in some providers to not use a tool

“When I establish care with any patient, [I launch] into shared decision-making because I think that outcomes are better. I think the evidence supports that.  
- United States”

ART, antiretroviral therapy; PWH, people with HIV.



# Conclusions

In VOLITION, 89% of eligible PWH chose to switch to CAB + RPV LA after achieving rapid virologic suppression with DTG/3TC

The established clinical efficacy of, and their satisfaction with CAB + RPV LA, supported providers' confidence in offering CAB + RPV LA

Providers view switching to CAB+RPV LA post-suppression as supporting autonomy and lifestyle fit, reducing pill burden, adherence anxiety and disclosure concerns



**VOLITION demonstrated that providers highly support the power of patient choice and shared decision-making immediately after virologic suppression**

3TC, lamivudine; ART, antiretroviral therapy; CAB, cabotegravir; DTG, dolutegravir; LA, long-acting; PWH, people with HIV; RPV, rilpivirine.

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