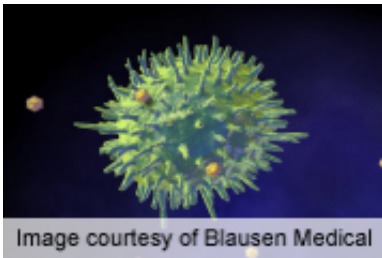


Onset of puberty is delayed in HIV-infected children

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Onset of puberty is significantly delayed in perinatally HIV-infected children compared with those who are HIV-exposed but uninfected, but combination antiretroviral therapy may result in more normal timing of pubertal onset, according to research published in the July 31 issue of *AIDS*.

(HealthDay)—Onset of puberty is significantly delayed in perinatally HIV-infected (PHIV) children compared with those who are HIV-exposed but uninfected (HEU), but combination antiretroviral therapy may result in more normal timing of pubertal onset, according to research published in the July 31 issue of *AIDS*.

Paige L. Williams, Ph.D., of the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston, and colleagues analyzed data collected from 2000 to 2012 in two U.S. longitudinal cohort studies (IMPAACT 219C and PHACS AMP) to compare the timing of pubertal onset among PHIV children versus HEU children and to assess the association of [disease severity](#) and antiretroviral treatment with pubertal onset.

The researchers found that, for the 2,086 PHIV children, mean age at onset of puberty was significantly delayed compared with HEU children, according to Tanner staging of female breast (10.3 versus 9.6 years), female pubic hair (10.5 versus 10.0 years), male genitalia (11.3 versus 10.4 years), and male pubic hair (11.5 versus 10.7 years). Significantly greater delay in pubertal onset (four to 13 months) was associated with increased severity of disease (HIV-1 RNA [viral load](#) >10,000 copies/mL or CD4%

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