

New study shows HIV-infected women not using statins as recommended

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A new study has shown that HIV-infected women do not use statins as recommended by the most recent guidelines. Control of blood lipid levels to prevent heart disease is especially important in HIV-positive women, and they may also benefit from the potential anti-inflammatory effects of statins, as described in an article published in *AIDS Patient Care and STDs*.

In the article entitled "Underutilization of Statins When Indicated in HIV-Seropositive and Seronegative Women," Jonathan Todd, PhD, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and a national team of coauthors evaluated the use of statins by both HIV-infected and HIV-uninfected [women](#) in whom their use is indicated. Statin use 5 years after indicated was low for both groups of women, with a rate of 38% for HIV-infected women. New guidelines for statin use released in 2013 increased the percentage of HIV-infected women for whom [statin](#) use is recommended from 16% to 45%.

"Despite the fact that HIV-infected [individuals](#) in the U.S. may have greater contact with healthcare providers than uninfected individuals of the same age, that is not reflected in consideration of their cardiac health," says Editor-in-Chief Jeffrey Laurence, MD, Professor of Medicine, Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, NY. "This is clearly an important message as a major impediment to reaching a normal lifespan for HIV-positive individuals may be acceleration of disorders associated with aging, particularly cardiovascular disease."

More information: Jonathan V. Todd et al. Underutilization of Statins When Indicated in HIV-Seropositive and Seronegative Women, *AIDS Patient Care and STDs* (2017). [DOI: 10.1089/apc.2017.0145](https://doi.org/10.1089/apc.2017.0145)

Provided by Mary Ann Liebert, Inc

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