

Naltrexone implant helps HIV patients prevent opioid relapse

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(HealthDay)—Slow-release implantable naltrexone is associated with better outcomes than the oral drug for HIV-positive patients with an opioid addiction, according to a study published in the April issue of *The Lancet HIV*.

Evgeny Krupitsky, M.D., from the University of Saint Petersburg in Russia, and colleagues conducted a 48-week, phase 3 trial with 200 men and women addicted to opioids who were starting [antiretroviral therapy](#) for HIV. Participants were randomly assigned to addiction treatment with a naltrexone implant and oral naltrexone placebo (implant group) or oral naltrexone and a placebo implant (oral group).

The researchers found that at week 24, 38 participants in the implant group and 35 in the oral group had viral loads

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