

# Women with HIV at increased risk of early onset menopause

6 November 2019

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Thanks to medical advancements, HIV-positive women now have a longer life expectancy, exposing them to numerous midlife health issues such as menopause. A new study demonstrates that women with HIV are more likely to enter the menopause transition at an average age of 48 years, 3 years younger than the general population. Study results are published online today in *Menopause, the journal of The North American Menopause Society* (NAMS).

Newly diagnosed HIV-positive patients who adhere to the latest therapy protocols are expected to live into their mid-70s or longer. That means these patients are now faced with aging issues that affect sexual and [reproductive health](#), including [menopause](#).

The average age of menopause in Canada and the United States is between 50 and 52 years. Previous studies have shown that women living with HIV are at an increased risk of early (age between 40 and 45 y) and premature (age

APA citation: Women with HIV at increased risk of early onset menopause (2019, November 6) retrieved 11 April 2021 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2019-11-women-hiv-early-onset-menopause.html>

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