



UMC Utrecht

VIMP disseminatie: Itrema Step up Strategy

AMJ Wensing, MD, PhD

Klinisch viroloog UMC Utrecht

Bijzonder hoogleraar Universiteit van Witwatersrand
Johannesburg



Disclosures Annemarie Wensing

(Potential) conflict of interest	
Potentially relevant company relationships in connection with event ¹	Arck inc. Supply drug level kits
Sponsorship or research funding ²	Gilead paid to UMCU
Fee or other (financial) payment ³	Consultancy gilead/GSK/Viiv healthcare paid to UMCU
Shareholder ⁴	None
Other relationship, i.e. ... ⁵	None

Eindigen HIV pandemie: 95-95-95% doelen UNAIDS voor 2030

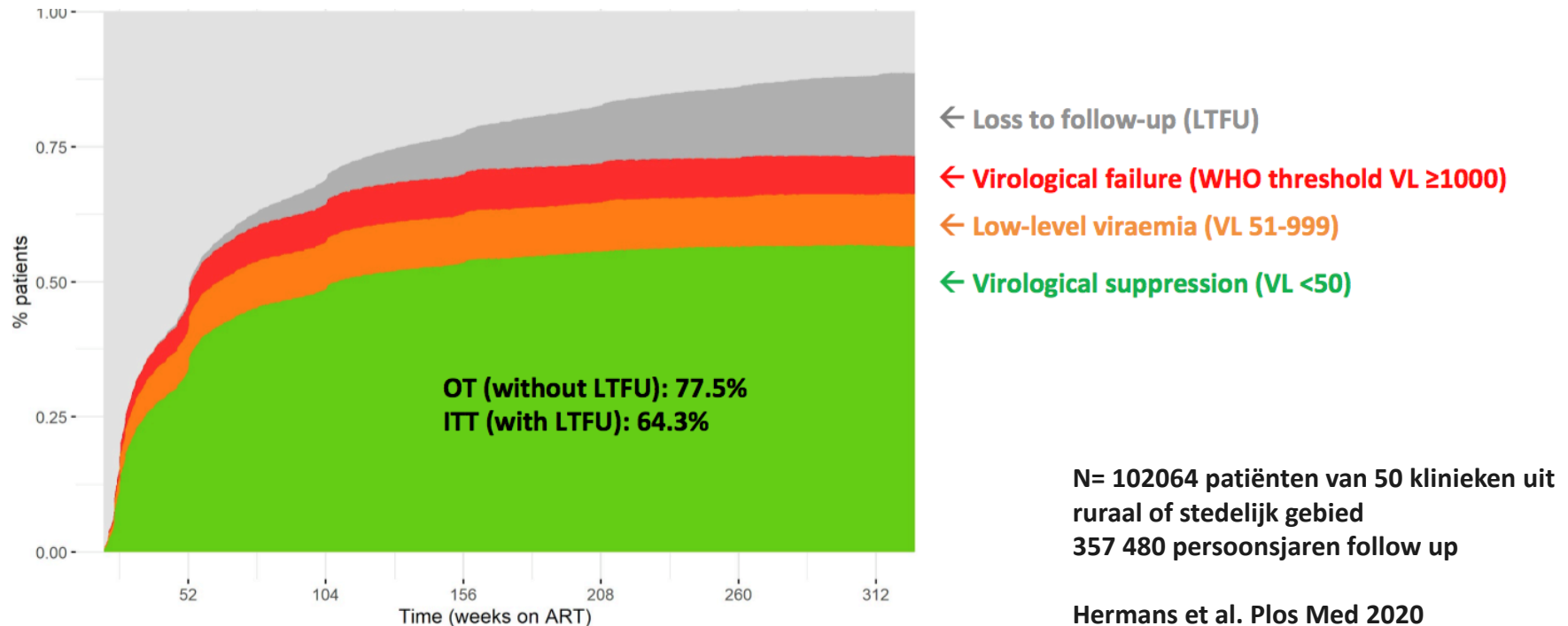
Bijna 40 miljoen mensen leven met HIV;

- In Zuid-Afrika zijn 7.5 miljoen mensen geïnfecteerd, waarmee dit een van de meest aangedane regio's is.

Voor het eindigen van de pandemie heeft UNAIDS de volgende doelen gesteld:

- 95% van de mensen met HIV moet gediagnosticeerd zijn
- 95% daarvan moet toegang hebben tot Antivirale behandeling (=ART)
- 95% daarvan succesvolle virale suppressie

ITREMA: Virus suppressie eerstelijns HIV behandeling Zuid Afrika



Behandelprogramma succesvol, maar 95% target wordt niet behaald
10% lage level viremie (< 1000 kp): als succes genoteerd maar tot 5
keer grotere kans op therapiefalen

Virologisch falen: aanbevolen aanpak richtlijnen

- Bij virale lading >1000 kp/ml: binnen 3 mnd virale lading herhalen
- Indien opnieuw > 1000 kp/ml: therapie wijziging

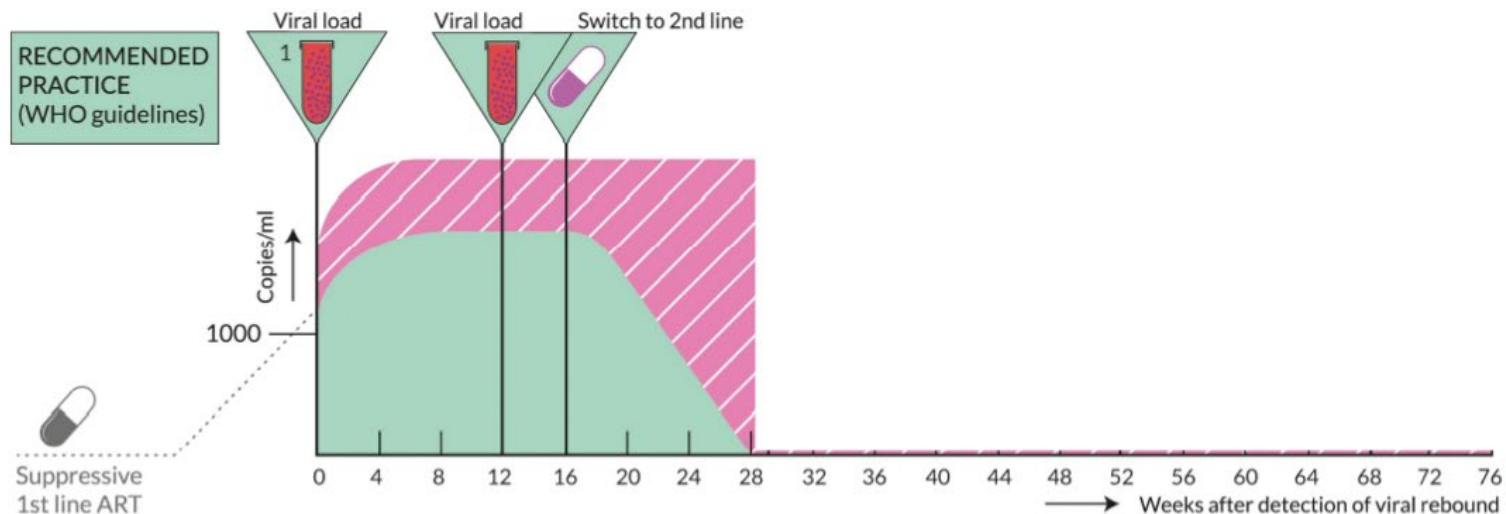


Fig 4. Clinical management of viremia—Observed versus recommended practice.

Hermans et al, *Plos Med*, 2020

Aanpak in klinische praktijk:

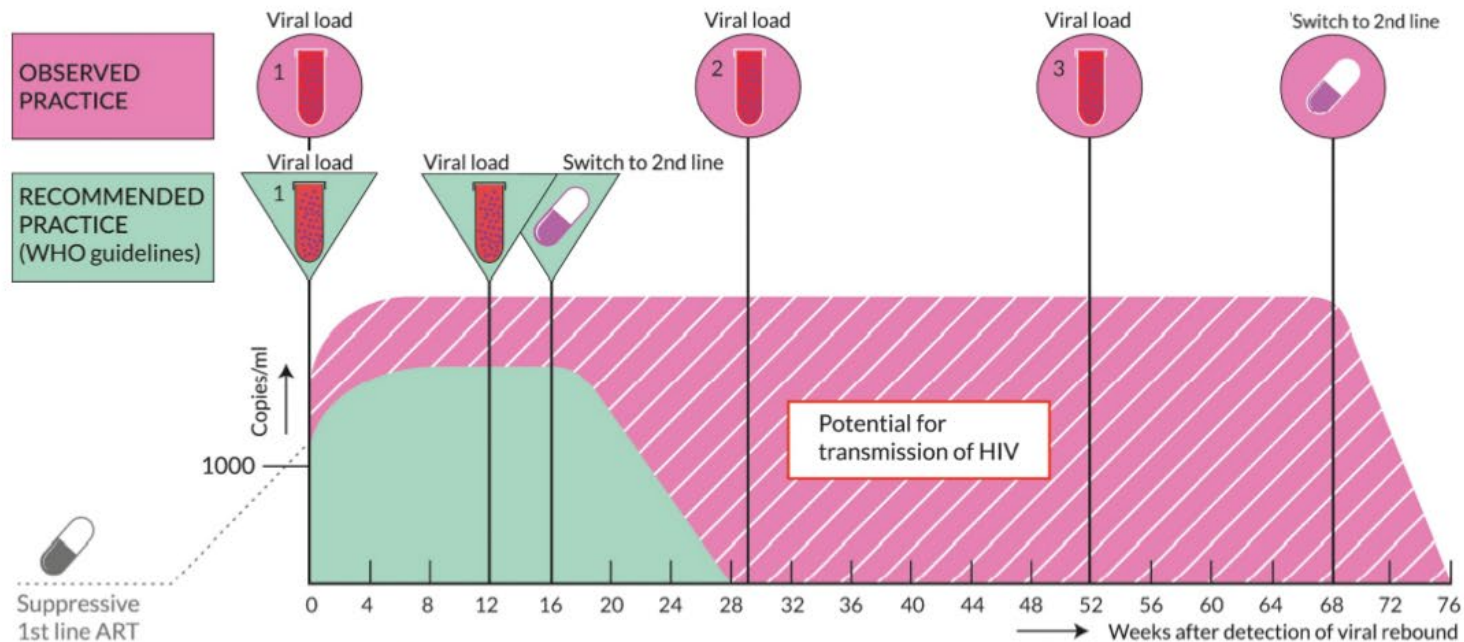


Fig 4. Clinical management of viremia—Observed versus recommended practice.

Hermans et al, Plos Med, 2020

Patiënten bleven veelal langer dan een jaar op falende therapie

Gevolgen late interventie

Voor de individuele patiënt:

- Immunologische en klinische achteruitgang^{1,2}
- Als er resistentie is geselecteerd: accumulatie van resistentie^{3,4}
- Noodzaak tot beschermd sexueel contact: N=N niet van toepassing

Voor de Publieke gezondheid:

- Verhoogde kans op verspreiding HIV
- Verhoogde kans op verspreiding therapieresistent HIV

1: Orrell C, AIDS Res Treat, 2011.

2: Keiser O, Trop Med Int Health, 2010

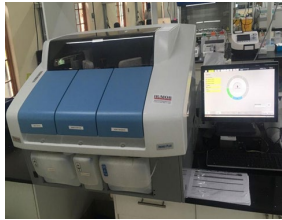
3: Barth et al, Antiviral Ther. 2012

4: Aitken et al, J. Vir meth. 2013

Reden voor het niet opvolgen richtlijn:

- Gebrek aan tools om onderscheid te maken tussen therapiefalen door therapieontrouw of resistentieontwikkeling
- Noodzaak voor eenvoudige kwalitatieve drug exposure test:

Bloedtest op eenvoudige analyser



dolutegravir,
atazanavir,
lopinavir
efavirenz

Urinetestje



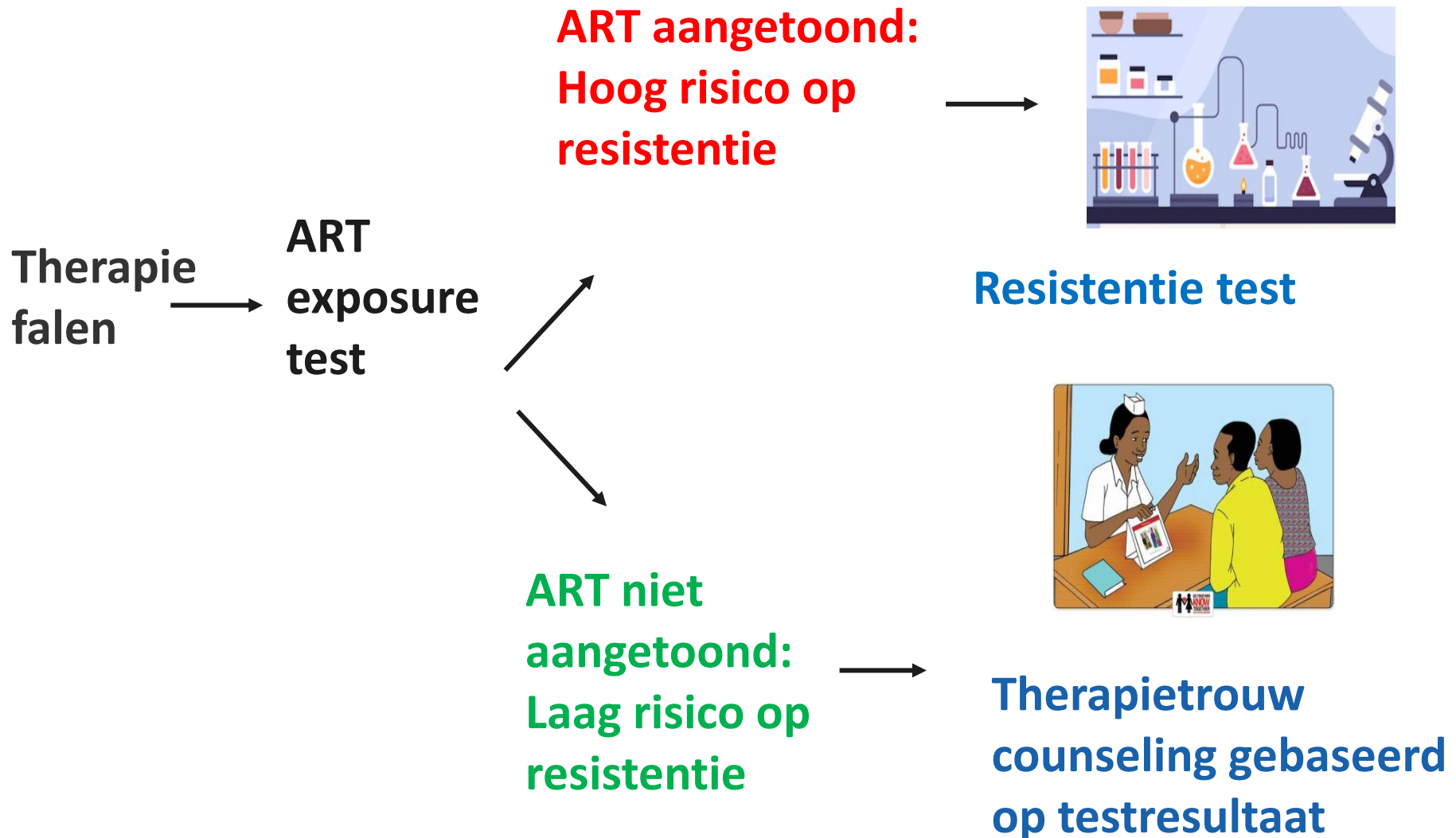
tenofovir

- Objectieve meting
- Faciliteert snelle beslissing in de klinische praktijk
- Voorkomt onnodige therapiewijziging
- Selecteert relevante cases voor dure resistentiebepalingen

In retrospectieve analyse NPV: 92-95%

Ofwel geen medicijn aantoonbaar = geen resistentie

ITREMA step up strategie bij therapiefalen



VIMP: disseminatie project resultaten ITREMA

Details VIMP ZonMw project: 2053000041

- Looptijd: 1 september 2019 - 1 september 2021 (+ 1 jaar COVID verlenging)
- Coördinatie vanuit Nederland,
- Samenwerking tussen:
 - Ruraal centrum in Township: Ndlovu Care Group in Limpopo
 - Universiteiten: Universiteit Utrecht, Unversiteit van Witwatersrand Johannesburg
 - Universitair Medische Centra: Radboud UMC, UMC Utrecht
 - Southern African HIV Clinicians Society



VIMP: disseminatie project resultaten ITREMA

Eerste stap voor disseminatie:

Inventarisatie van

- 1) Ervaringen met ITREMA strategie en
- 2) Visie op ITREMA vanuit niet ervaringsdeskundigen
- 3) Implementatie mogelijkheden en barrières

- ITREMA: Community Meeting/Questionnaire counselors
- VIMP: Stakeholdersmeetings
 - Beroepsorganisatie Zuidelijke Afrikaanse HIV zorgverleners
 - Individuele HIV-behandelaren academische setting en rurale setting
 - Vertegenwoordigers van het nationale laboratorium
 - Nationale instituut voor overdraagbare ziektes (NICD)
 - VIMP coordinatie team

Focus disseminatie: Resultaten ITREMA vertaalt in kernboodschappen

1. Meetbaar virus tijdens het gebruik van HIV remmers is geen therapiesucces
2. Meetbaar virus levert risico's op voor het individu en de samenleving
3. Gebruik van tools geeft inzicht in virologisch falen.

Focus op implementatie effect:

- Zorgverleners: Nadruk op counselors en verpleegkundigen
- Public health sector: NHLS, NICD, WHO

Impact VIMP: Uitkomst stakeholder meeting: Adaptatie behandelrichtlijn

What is new in the 2020 guidelines update?

Key updates

- A recommendation for dolutegravir (DTG)-based therapies as the preferred first-line antiretroviral therapy (ART) option (section 11).
- Updated guidelines for second- and third-line ART regimens (section 13).
- New recommendations on the management of patients on DTG-based therapies who have an elevated viral load (section 12).
- A lowering of the threshold for virological failure from 1000 copies/mL to 50 copies/mL (section 8).
- A recommendation against routine cluster of differentiation 4 (CD4⁺) monitoring in patients who are clinically well once the CD4⁺ count is > 200 cells/μL (section 9).
- Updated recommendations for isoniazid preventive therapy (IPT) in human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)-positive patients (section 27).
- A recommendation for the use of low-dose prednisone as prophylaxis for paradoxical tuberculosis (TB) immune reconstitution inflammatory syndrome (IRIS) in TB/HIV co-infected patients commencing ART within 1 month of TB therapy (section 26).

Interpreting viral load results

Virological criteria for treatment success

Treatment success is defined as a decline in VL to < 50 copies/mL within 6 months of commencing ART, and sustained thereafter.

Virological criteria for treatment failure

Treatment failure is defined as a confirmed VL > 50 copies/mL on two consecutive measurements taken 2–3 months apart: The decision to alter ART should therefore be based on the results of repeat testing after 2–3 months, following intensive adherence counselling. *Although previous guidelines used a threshold of 1000 copies/mL to define virological failure, there is now good evidence that a VL > 50 copies/mL is robustly associated with subsequent virological failure,* although this has not been established.^{53,54} Sustained viral replication, even at these low levels, can lead to the accumulation of resistance mutations (although this has not yet been definitively established in the case of DTG).

53. Hermans LE, Moorhouse M, Carmona S, et al. Effect of HIV-1 low-level viraemia during antiretroviral therapy on treatment outcomes in WHO-guided South African treatment programmes: A multicentre cohort study. *Lancet Infect Dis.* 2018;18(2):188–197. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099\(17\)30681-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099(17)30681-3)

VIMP uitdagingen

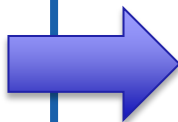


- ITREMA Platform voor connectie met mobiele telefoons:
 - Niet duurzaam
 - Door aanpassing richtlijn minder noodzakelijk

Alternatief voor maximale impact:

- Samenwerking met nationaal instituut infectieziekten:
 - Duurzame aanpassing cumulatieve viral load uitslagen: alert op alle detecteerbare virale load uitslagen vanaf 50 kp/ml
- SMS alert berichten voor zorgverleners tot aanpassing richtlijn overal is doorgevoerd; Twee wekelijkse SMS berichten zijn nu standaard practice geworden bij de beroepsvereniging

VIMP trainingen van in person naar virtueel



CME Webinar:

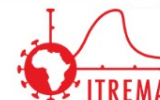
28 June 2022 from 12h45 to 15h10

Topic: Viral Load Monitoring in Clinical Practice & Undetectable = Untransmittable (U=U) for nurses and counsellors



Programme

- Viral load management | **Prof. Annemarie Wensing**
- Low-level viremia | **Dr. Lucas Hermans**
- Undetectable = Untransmittable (U=U) | **Sr. Mandisa Dukashe**
- Discussion | **Prof. Annemarie Wensing & Sr. Maria Sibanyoni**



Prof. Annemarie Wensing



Dr. Lucas Hermans



Sr. Mandisa Dukashe



Sr. Maria Sibanyoni

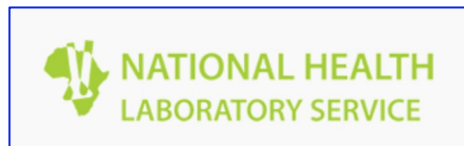
This training is funded through the Dutch Government (The Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development – ZonMW/WOTRO) as part of the VIMP (2053000041).



- Geen rollenspellen
- Uitdaging voor Pre-Post test
- Groter bereik: ook artsen
- Inzet key opinion leaders (verpl)
- Via chat en Q&A: toch interactief

Impact: Implementatie 2023

- Johannesburg regio:
 - Reflex test pilot n=400 (voorbereid via VIMP; additonele funding NWO)
 - Itrema step up strategie op VL monster
 - Viral Rebound: Drug Exposure Test
 - Positive Drug Exposure Test: Resistance Test
 - Samenwerking nationale lab – Ruraal Ndlovu lab

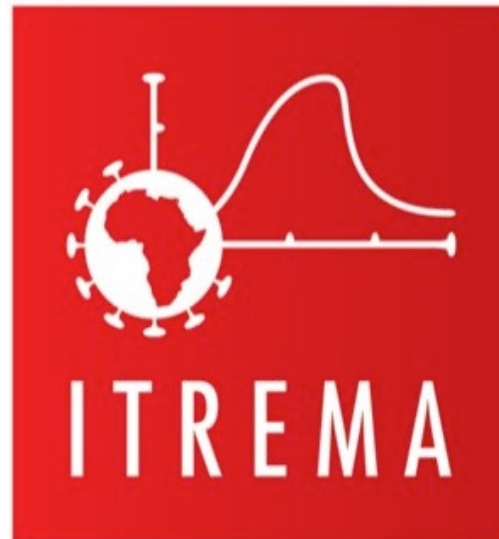


- Ontwikkeling van drug exposure test op dried blood spots (funded AIDSfonds): toepassing op Afrikaanse continent
- Cape regio:
 - Urinetest
 - Indicatie resistentie test: Drug Exposure test
 - Positieve Drug Exposure test: Resistentie test

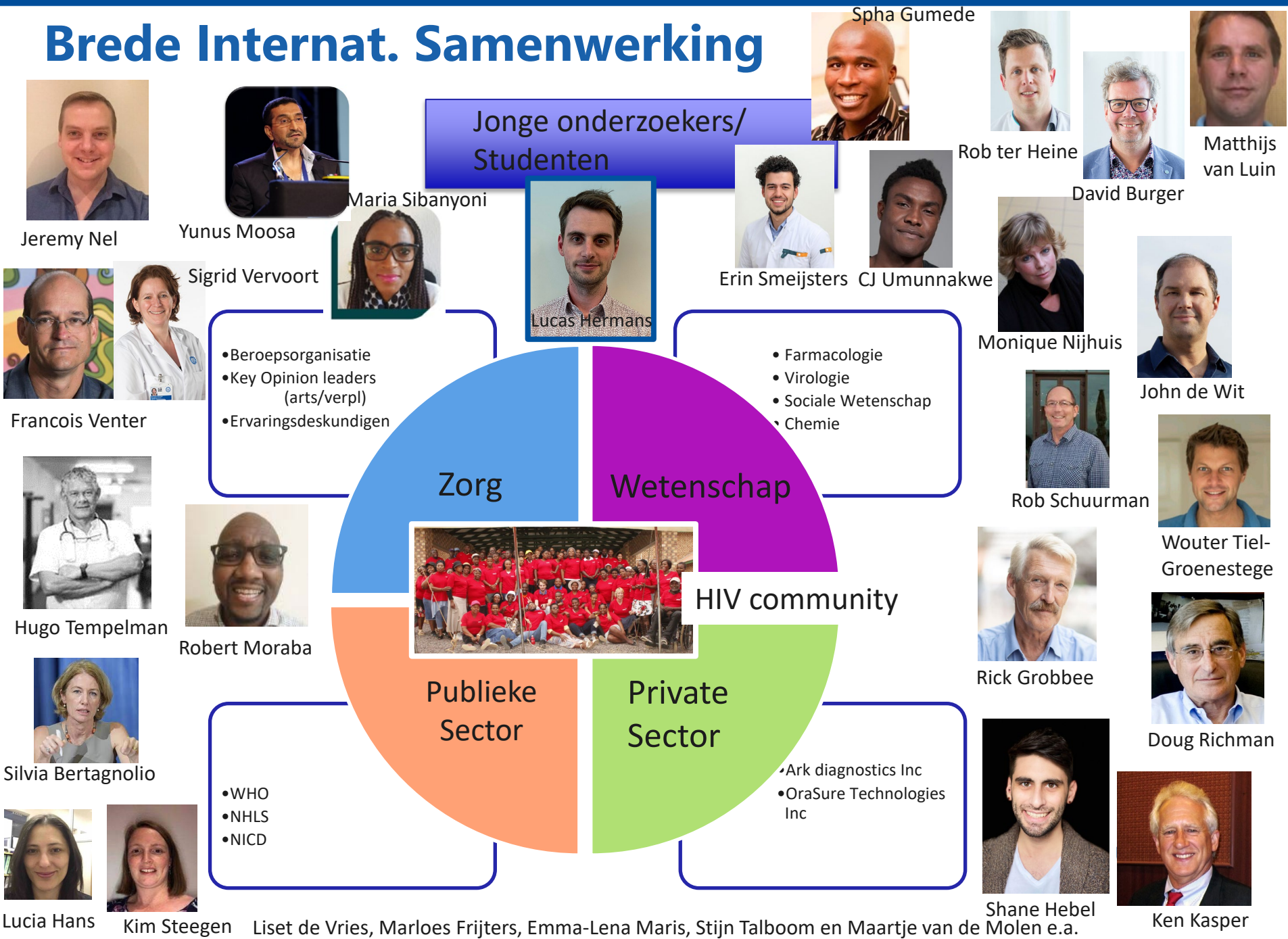
Na 2023?

- Breder implementatie Itrema Step up Strategie
 - Service delivery
 - Uptake analyse
 - Kosten effectiviteit

Samenwerking met bestaande partners uit de verschillende sectoren en nieuwe partners

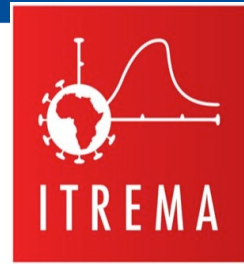


Brede Internat. Samenwerking

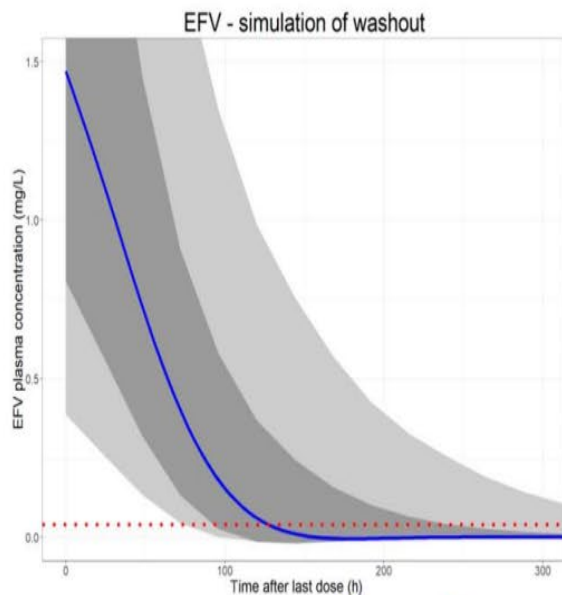


Back-up Slides

2: Pharmacokinetic interpretation

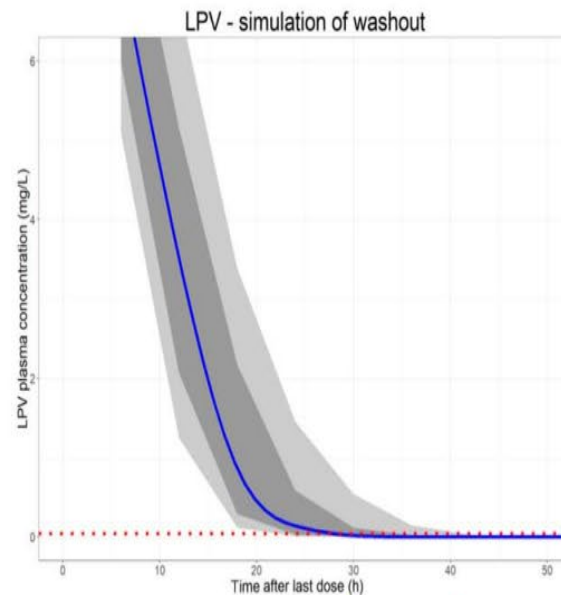


- Population PK simulation of 2000 individuals per drug
- Perfect adherence → sudden cessation
- Drug washout simulated



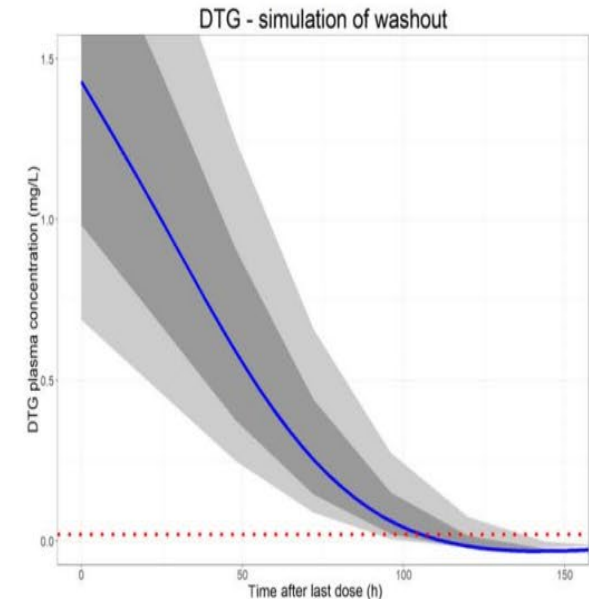
A

Legend ■ 25-75 percentile ■ 10-90 percentile — median EFV conc — assay LoD



B

Legend ■ 25-75 percentile ■ 10-90 percentile — median LPV conc — assay LoD

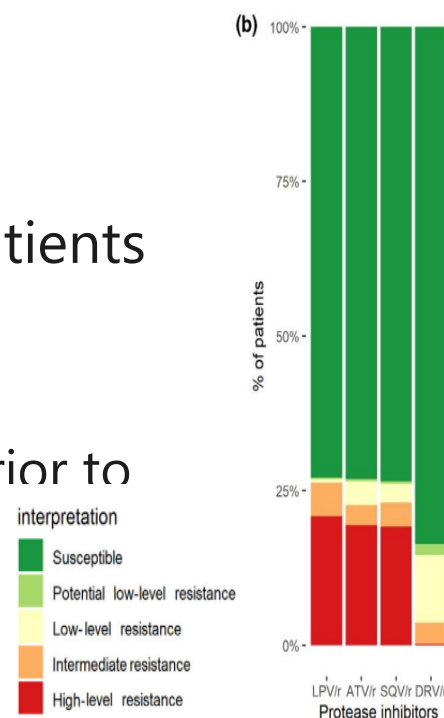


C

Legend ■ 25-75 percentile ■ 10-90 percentile — median DTG conc — assay LoD

3: Implementation in clinical care (LPV/r)

- 544 adult patients on 2nd line LPV/r-based ART
 - Confirmed virological failure (≥ 2 consecutive VL > 1000 c/mL)
 - Drug resistance testing performed in routine clinical practice
- Major LPV-resistance mutations **in 25.4%** of patients with failure
 - Suggests that adherence is very poor
 - Suitable population for drug exposure testing prior to resistance testing



LPV exposure testing predicts drug resistance

- **47.3%** of patients with failure had a **negative** lopinavir exposure test
- Negative LPV exposure test ruled out LPV resistance to high degree of certainty^{1,2}
 - **Undetectable LPV → 5.9%** LPV-resistance
 - **Detectable LPV → 45.4%** LPV-resistance

Sensitivity	90% [84 to 94]
Specificity	61% [56 to 66]
Positive predictive value	44% [38 to 50]
Negative predictive value	95% [91 to 97]

- If implemented prior to drug resistance testing, approximately half of resistance tests would have been avoided



Tenofovir (TFV) urine testing

- Lateral flow assays for tenofovir (TFV) testing in urine have recently been developed
- TFV assays are being field-tested in PrEP populations (TDF/FTC)

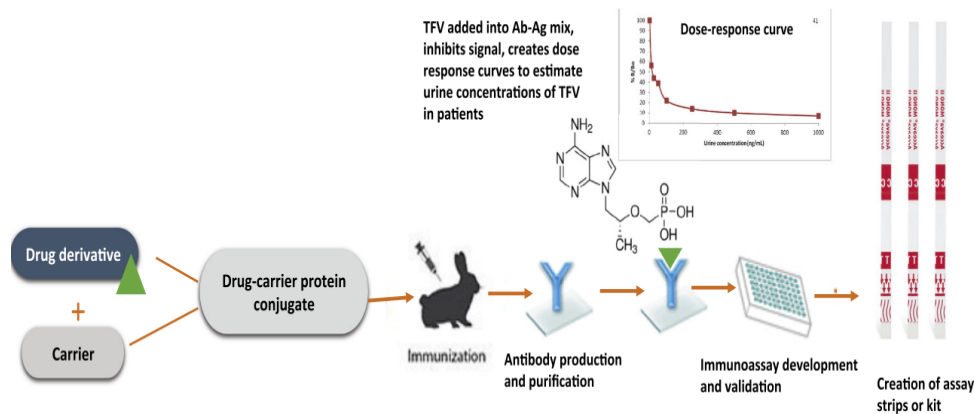


Figure 1. UrSure's Rapid Tenofovir Test Prototype, ready for investigational use

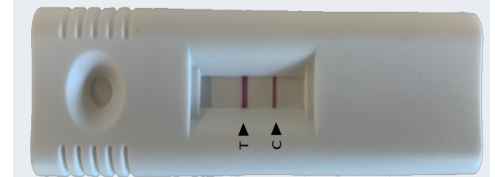


Figure 2. Sensitivity, Specificity, of UrSure LFIA prototype

	LC-MS (+)	LC-MS (-)
LFIA (+)	37	0
LFIA (-)	0	162

TFV urine testing in first-line ART

- Nested case-control analysis of the ADVANCE RCT (1053 participants)
 - 1:1:1 (TAF/FTC/DTG : TDF/FTC/DTG : TDF/FTC/EFV)
- Cases: all participants with a VL ≥ 200 c/mL between 24-96 weeks of follow-up
- Controls: matched participants with suppression throughout
- Urine-TFV testing was performed retrospectively at timepoint of rebound (or matched timepoint in control participants)

Hermans et al, CID, 2023

TFV urine testing in ADVANCE

- **Undetectable urine-TFV predicted viral rebound**

ALL PARTICIPANTS - SAMPLE LEVEL CROSS-SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

All samples (n = 281)	cases	controls		sensitivity	69%	[63-75]	<i>p</i> < 0.001
urine-TFV undetectable	158	0	158	specificity	100%	[93-100]	
urine-TFV detectable	70	53	123				
	228	53	281				

- In patients with confirmed failure (VL ≥ 1000 copies/mL), **detectable urine-TFV predicted NRTI drug resistance**

ALL PARTICIPANTS AND NRTI RESISTANCE				OR	12.8	[2.1-144.8]	<i>p</i> = 0.001
All participants (n = 42)	NRTI resistance	no NRTI resistance		sensitivity	83%	[52-98]	
urine-TFV detectable at ≥ 1 timepoint	10	8	18	specificity	73%	[54-88]	
urine-TFV undetectable at all timepoints	2	22	24	PPV	56%	[31-78]	
	12	30	42	NPV	92%	[73-99]	