

Real-world Effectiveness of Dolutegravir + Lamivudine (DTG + 3TC) in Treatment-Naive People With HIV-1 and Low CD4+ Cell Count or High Viral Load at Baseline: A Systematic Literature Review

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Key Takeaway

- Results from a systematic literature review (SLR) of real-world studies of treatment-naive people with HIV-1 initiating DTG + 3TC demonstrated high rates of virologic suppression (HIV-1 RNA <50 copies/mL) among individuals with high baseline viral load or baseline CD4+ cell count <200 cells/mm³ at Weeks 48 and 96

Introduction

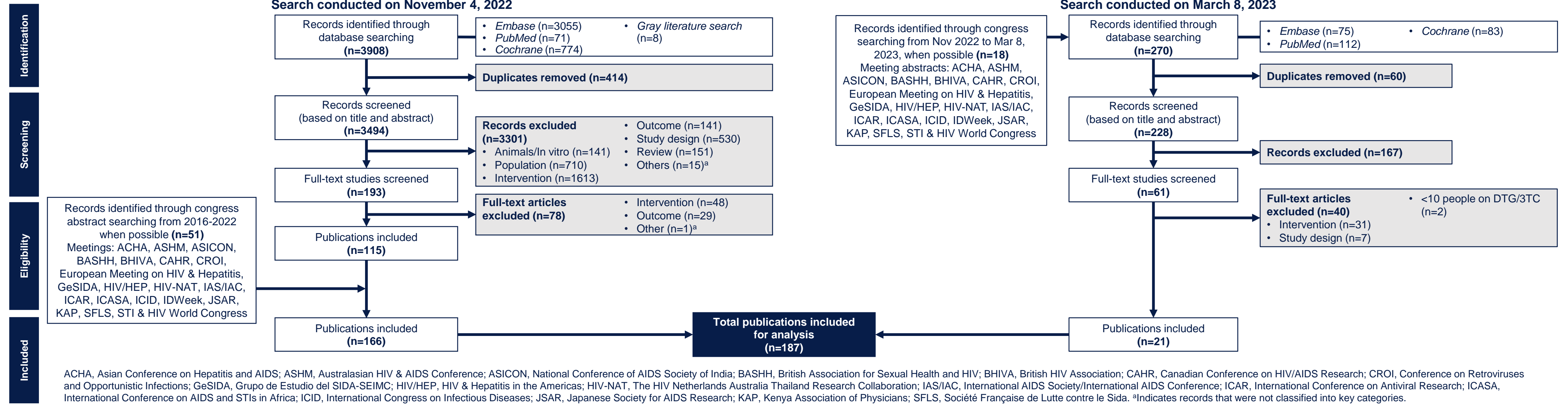
- Treatment-naive people with HIV-1 who initiate antiretroviral therapy with high viral load or CD4+ cell count <200 cells/mm³ experience higher rates of treatment failure, morbidity, and mortality^{1,2}
- In the GEMINI-1/2 and STAT clinical trials, DTG + 3TC was effective for achieving virologic suppression among treatment-naive participants with baseline viral load ≥100,000 copies/mL
 - At Week 144 in GEMINI-1/2, 5% (7/140) of participants had HIV-1 RNA ≥50 copies/mL (Snapshot analysis), and at Week 48 in STAT, 6% (3/51) had HIV-1 RNA ≥50 copies/mL (ITT-E missing = failure analysis)^{3,4}
- The proportion of participants with viral load ≥500,000 copies/mL at baseline who achieved HIV-1 RNA <50 copies/mL was 77% (10/13) in GEMINI-1/2 and 89% (17/19) in STAT
- Among treatment-naive participants with low baseline CD4+ cell count, 10% (6/63) in GEMINI-1/2 and 5% (2/37) in STAT had HIV-1 RNA ≥50 copies/mL at Week 144 or Week 48, respectively^{3,4}
- To complement existing clinical trial data and support treatment decisions, we summarize data on DTG + 3TC effectiveness from studies of real-world use in treatment-naive people with HIV-1 with high viral load or low CD4+ cell count at treatment initiation

Methods

- The SLR was performed in accordance with the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines (Figure 1)
- Ovid MEDLINE®, Embase®, PubMed, Cochrane library, and relevant international conference proceedings were searched for studies reporting data on DTG + 3TC use in real-world populations between January 2013 and March 2023
- The original SLR searched from January 2013 to November 4, 2022; to supplement the original SLR, an updated SLR was conducted with identical search criteria and included publications up to March 8, 2023

- Reports identified in the search were subsequently screened and only those with baseline or outcomes data for treatment-naive individuals with high baseline viral load or low baseline CD4+ cell count were retained for further analysis
- Among studies reporting virologic outcomes from the same cohort, only the report with the largest population with high viral load or low CD4+ cell count at baseline was included in the analysis to avoid overlap

Figure 1. PRISMA Diagram

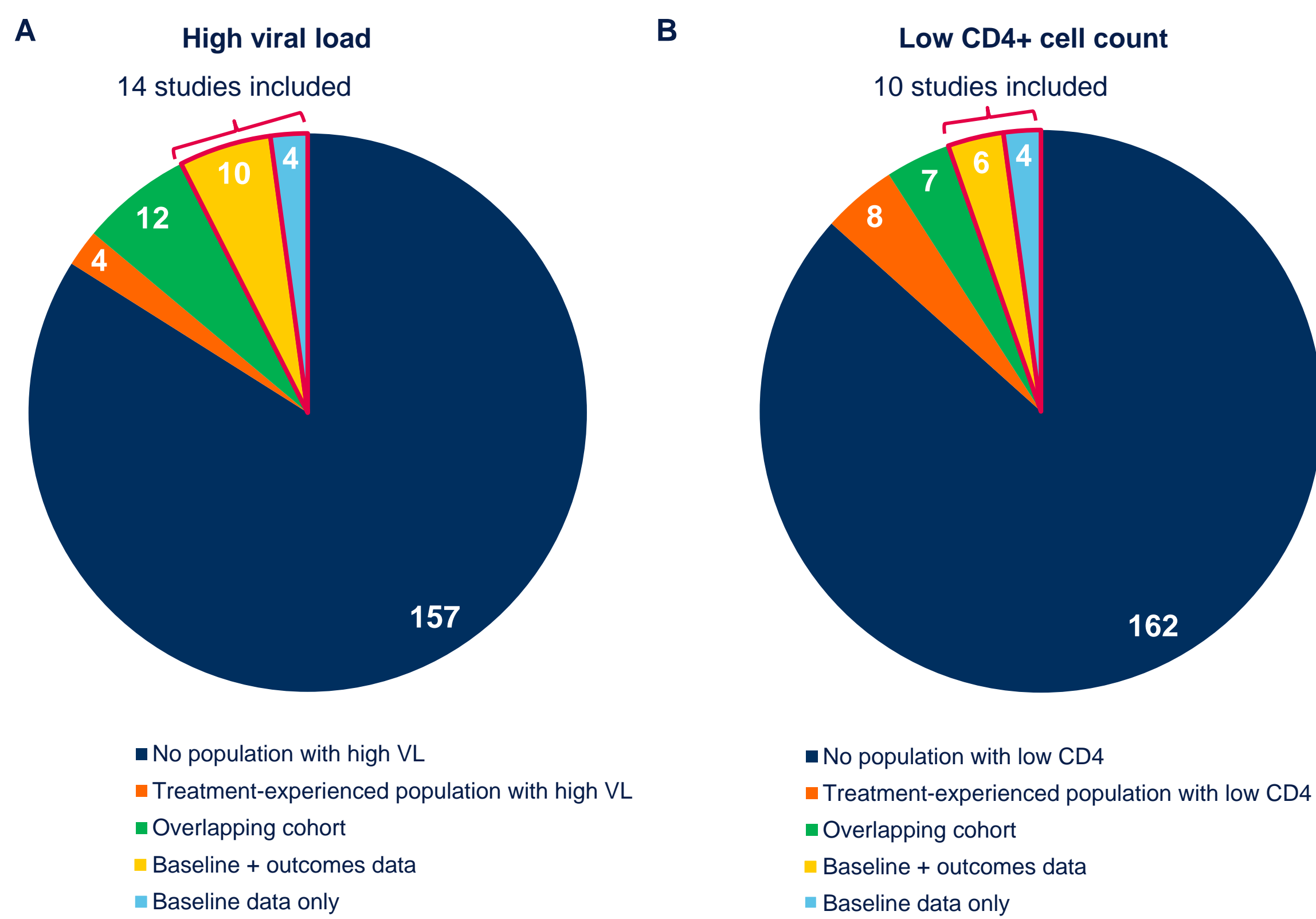


Results

Cohorts and Participants

- The SLR identified 187 publications representing 146 studies related to 67 cohorts and including 36,313 people with HIV-1 using DTG + 3TC
- 14 non-overlapping cohorts included baseline and/or outcomes data for treatment-naive people initiating therapy with DTG + 3TC with viral load ≥100,000 copies/mL (n=502; Figure 2A)
- In total, 30 publications reported on people with high viral load, 4 of which included only treatment-experienced populations and 12 of which were duplicate cohorts with fewer individuals
- 10 publications reported data for non-overlapping cohorts of treatment-naive people with baseline CD4+ cell count <200 cells/mm³ (n=215; Figure 2B)
- Overall, 25 reports included people with HIV-1 and low CD4+ cell count at DTG + 3TC initiation, 8 of which included treatment-experienced populations and 7 of which were from duplicate cohorts

Figure 2. Breakdown of Real-world Publications Reporting Data on People With HIV-1 Initiating DTG + 3TC With (A) Viral Load ≥100,000 Copies/mL and (B) CD4+ Cell Count <200 Cells/mm³

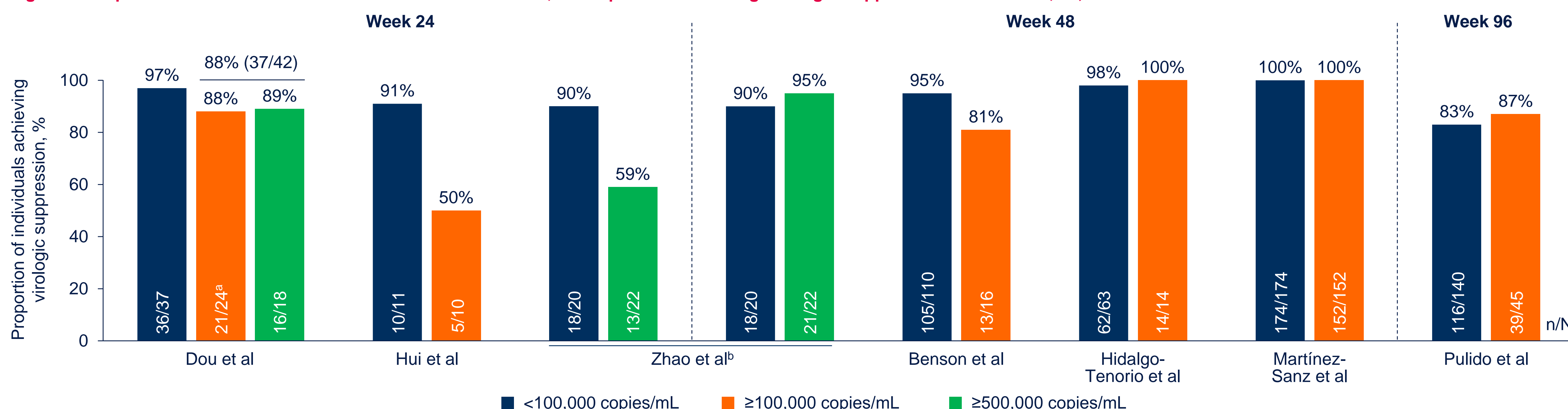


- 7 and 4 studies reported the virologic effectiveness of DTG + 3TC for ≥10 treatment-naive individuals with high baseline viral load or low baseline CD4+ cell count, respectively (Table)

Virologic Outcomes in Treatment-Naive Populations With High Baseline Viral Load

- Overall, the proportion of individuals with high baseline viral load who achieved virologic suppression was 76% (61/80) at Week 24, 97% (208/215) at Week 48, and 87% (39/45) at Week 96
- Among studies reporting data for ≥10 individuals with high baseline viral load from the same cohort, the proportion with HIV-1 RNA <50 copies/mL ranged from 50% (5/10) to 88% (37/42) at Week 24 and from 81% (13/16) to 100% (152/152) at Week 48; at Week 96, one study reported that 87% (39/45) of individuals were virologically suppressed (Figure 3)
- In a longitudinal cohort study following individuals with baseline viral load ≥500,000 copies/mL, the proportion achieving virologic suppression increased from 59% (13/22) at Week 24 to 95% (21/22) at Week 48
- Using inverse-variance weighting methods with a correction of 0.01% for studies with 100% suppression, the pooled proportions of individuals with high baseline viral load from studies with n ≥10 who achieved virologic suppression were 80.3% at Week 24, >99.9% at Week 48, and 87% at Week 96

Figure 3. Proportions of Individuals With Baseline Viral Load ≥100,000 Copies/mL Achieving Virologic Suppression at Weeks 24, 48, and 96



Studies shown are limited to those with n ≥10 people with high baseline viral load. ^aViral load ≥100,000 to <500,000 copies/mL. ^bNon-high viral load group <500,000 copies/mL.

Table. Studies With Virologic Effectiveness Data for ≥10 Treatment-Naive People With HIV-1 and Baseline Viral Load ≥100,000 Copies/mL or CD4+ Cell Count <200 Cells/mm³

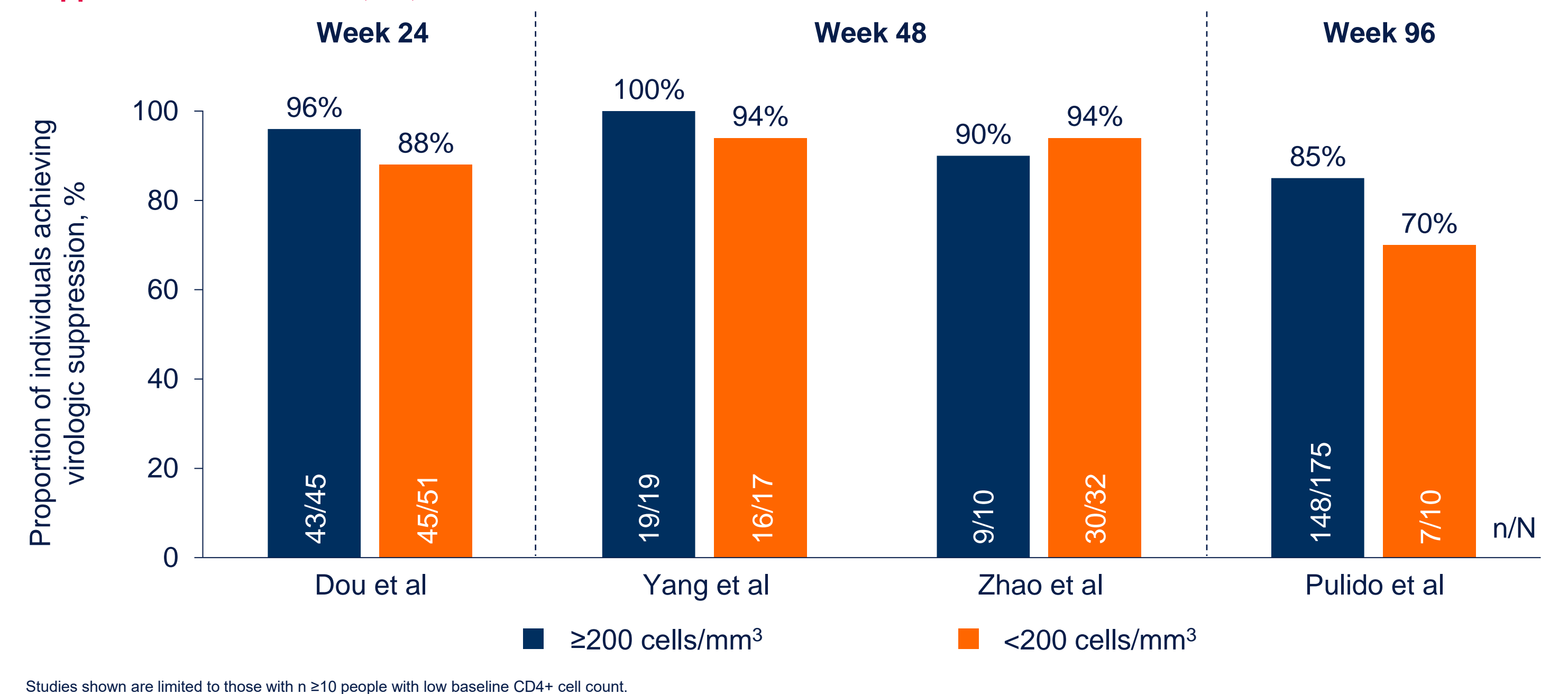
Study	Cohort or network	Country	Total DTG + 3TC cohort, N	High viral load or low CD4 cohort, n	Outcome reporting window(s)
High baseline viral load					
Dou et al ⁵	—	China	96	42	Week 24
Hui et al ⁶	—	China	54	34	Week 24 ^a
Zhao et al ⁷	—	China	42	22	Week 24 Week 48
Benson et al ⁸	TANDEM	United States	126	16	Week 48
Hidalgo-Tenorio et al ⁹	DOLAVI	Spain	88	17	Week 48
Martínez-Sanz et al ¹⁰	CoRIS	Spain	326	152	Week 48
Pulido et al ¹¹	REDOLA	Spain	185	45	Week 96
Low baseline CD4+ cell count					
Dou et al ⁵	—	China	96	51	Week 24
Yang et al ¹²	—	China	36	17	Week 48
Zhao et al ⁷	—	China	42	32	Week 48
Pulido et al ¹¹	REDOLA	Spain	185	10	Week 96

^aOnly 21 people in this cohort, 10 with high viral load, were included in the efficacy analysis.

Virologic Outcomes in Treatment-Naive Populations With Low Baseline CD4+ Cell Count

- Overall, 86% (54/63) of people with baseline CD4+ cell count <200 cells/mm³ were virologically suppressed at Week 24, 94% (46/49) at Week 48, and 70% (7/10) at Week 96
- Among the studies reporting outcomes for ≥10 individuals with low baseline CD4+ cell count, 88% (45/51) achieved HIV-1 RNA <50 copies/mL at Week 24, 94% (30/32 and 16/17) at Week 48, and 70% (7/10) at Week 96 (Figure 4)
- Using inverse-variance weighting methods, the pooled proportions of individuals with low baseline CD4+ cell count from studies with n ≥10 who achieved virologic suppression were 88% at Week 24, 93.9% at Week 48, and 70% at Week 96

Figure 4. Proportion of Individuals With Baseline CD4+ Cell Count <200 Cells/mm³ Achieving Virologic Suppression at Weeks 24, 48, and 96



Studies shown are limited to those with n ≥10 people with low baseline CD4+ cell count.

Conclusions

- Consistent with clinical trial data, real-world evidence from treatment-naive people with HIV-1 initiating DTG + 3TC shows high rates of virologic suppression regardless of viral load or CD4+ cell count at baseline
- The DOLCE clinical trial (ClinicalTrials.gov, NCT04880395) is an ongoing study that will provide additional efficacy data on DTG + 3TC in these subpopulations

Acknowledgments: This study was funded by ViiV Healthcare. Editorial assistance and graphic design support for this poster were provided under the direction of the authors by MedThink SciCom and funded by ViiV Healthcare. Data included in this poster have previously been presented in full at the 19th European AIDS Conference, October 18-21, 2023; Warsaw, Poland; Poster eP.A.050.

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