Trial Launches of New HIV Vaccine Candidate With CMV Vector

Clinical testing has begun for a new HIV vaccine candidate with a unique vector, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced. The phase I trial, which aims to enroll 95 people without HIV in South Africa and the US, will evaluate the safety of the vaccine as well as its ability to trigger an HIV-specific immune response in participants.

The vaccine candidate, known as VIR-1388, harnesses a weakened version of the common cytomegalovirus (CMV)—a virus that infects more than half of US adults by the time they are age 40 years—to deliver the HIV vaccine material to the immune system. The immune system's T cells can then recognize the material and mount an HIV-specific response.

Trial enrollment will be limited to people with asymptomatic CMV, the NIH wrote in a statement. The earliest results of the trial will likely be available by the end of 2024.

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Note: Source references are available through embedded hyperlinks in the article text online.