Long-term Efficacy of Bictegravir/Emtricitabine/Tenofovir Alafenamide After Switch From Boosted Protease Inhibitor-Based Regimens Including in Those With Preexisting Resistance and Viral Blips

Introduction

- The single-tablet regimen of bictegravir (BIC), emtricitabine (FTC), and tenofovir alafenamide (TAF; B/F/TAF) is a DHHS, EACS, and IAS-USA guidelines-recommended regimen for adults, adolescents, and children aged >6 years,¹⁻⁴ with demonstrated safety and efficacy, and a high barrier to resistance
- Previously reported results from the Phase 3 Study 1878 (ClinicalTrials.gov) NCT02603107) demonstrated that switching to B/F/TAF was noninferior to continuing a boosted protease inhibitor (PI)-based regimen in virologically suppressed adults at Week 48 and continued to have high efficacy through long-term follow-up^{5,6}
- No treatment-emergent viral resistance to B/F/TAF was observed
- Proviral DNA genotype can help guide regimen switching and decrease risk of virologic failure^{7,8}
- Viral blips (single HIV-1 RNA value ≥50 copies [c]/mL preceded and followed by HIV-1 RNA < 50 c/mL) can occur for several reasons:
- In successfully treated people with HIV, blips may reflect residual viral replication, random biological fluctuation, immune activation and inflammation, or assay variation^{2,9,10}
- Viral blips may be a marker for future virologic failure to some antiretroviral regimens, but data on the impact on clinical outcomes are conflicting¹¹⁻¹³

Objectives

 To quantify preexisting resistance and frequency of viral blips, and assess virologic outcomes through the end of study for participants in Study 1878

Methods

Study 1878 Design Primary Endpoint **HIV Suppressed Adults on Boosted** Switch to B/F/TAF qd OLE: all B/F/TAF DRV or ATV + 2 NRTIs HIV-1 RNA <50 c/mL for ≥6 mo • eGFR_{cc} \geq 50 mL/min Stay on BL regimen (SBR) OLE: all B/F/TAF No documented FTC or TAF resistance No prior virologic failure - BL for SBR \rightarrow B/F/TAF= 1st B/F/TAF dose

ATV, atazanavir; BL, baseline; DRV, darunavir; eGFR_{CG}, estimated glomerular filtration rate by Cockcroft-Gault formula; NRTIs, nucleoside reverse transcriptase inh OLE, open-label extension.

- Phase 3, randomized, open-label, multicenter, active-controlled study
- During OLE, participants transitioned to commercial B/F/TAF as it became available - BL for SBR \rightarrow B/F/TAF group was measured from start of B/F/TAF in OLE

Baseline Genotypic Analyses

- Historical HIV-1 genotyping reports were collected if available
- HIV-1 proviral DNA genotype testing (GenoSure Archive[®], Monogram Biosciences, Inc., South San Francisco, California, USA) was performed on BL samples retrospectively (hereafter referred to as BL DNA genotype)
- Bioinformatic filters removed APOBEC-mediated hypermutated deep-sequence reads from GenoSure Archive results to prevent overreporting of E138K, M184I, and M230I in reverse transcriptase (RT) and G163R in integrase (IN)
- Participants with preexisting resistance detected after enrollment continued study drug and remained on study

Resistance Analysis Population

- Resistance testing was performed for participants with confirmed virologic failure (HIV-1) RNA \geq 50 c/mL at 2 consecutive visits) and HIV-1 RNA \geq 200 c/mL at the confirmation visit, or with HIV-1 RNA ≥200 c/mL at Week 48 or last visit on study drugs
- Plasma HIV-1 RNA genotyping and phenotyping (PhenoSense[®] GT, GeneSeq[®] Integrase, and PhenoSense Integrase[®], Monogram)

HIV-1 Drug Resistance Substitutions (based on IAS-USA)¹⁴

NRTI-R	K65R/E/N, T69 insertions, K70E, L74V/I, Y115F, Q151M, M184V/I, TAMs (M41L, D67N, K70R, L210W, T215F/Y, K219E/N/Q/R)
NNRTI-R	L100I, K101E/P, K103N/S, V106A/M, V108I, E138A/G/K/Q/R, V179L, Y181C/I/V, Y188C/H/L, G190A/E/Q/S, H221Y, P225H, F227C, M230I/L
	RPV-R: L100I, K101E/P, E138A/G/K/Q/R, V179L, Y181C/I/V, Y188L, H221Y, F227C, M230I/L
PI-R	D30N, V32I, M46I/L, I47A/V, G48V, I50L/V, I54M/L, Q58E, T74P, L76V, V82A/F/L/S/T, N83D, I84V, N88S, L90M
	Primary: T66I/A/K, E92Q/G, T97A, F121Y, Y143R/H/C, S147G, Q148H/K/R, N155H/S, R263K
INSTI-R	Secondary: M50I, H51Y, L68I/V, V72A/N/T, L74M, Q95K/R, G118R, S119P/R/T, F121C, A128T, E138A/K, G140A/C/S, P145S, Q146I/K/L/P/R, V151A/L, S153A/F/Y, E157K/Q, G163K/R, E170A

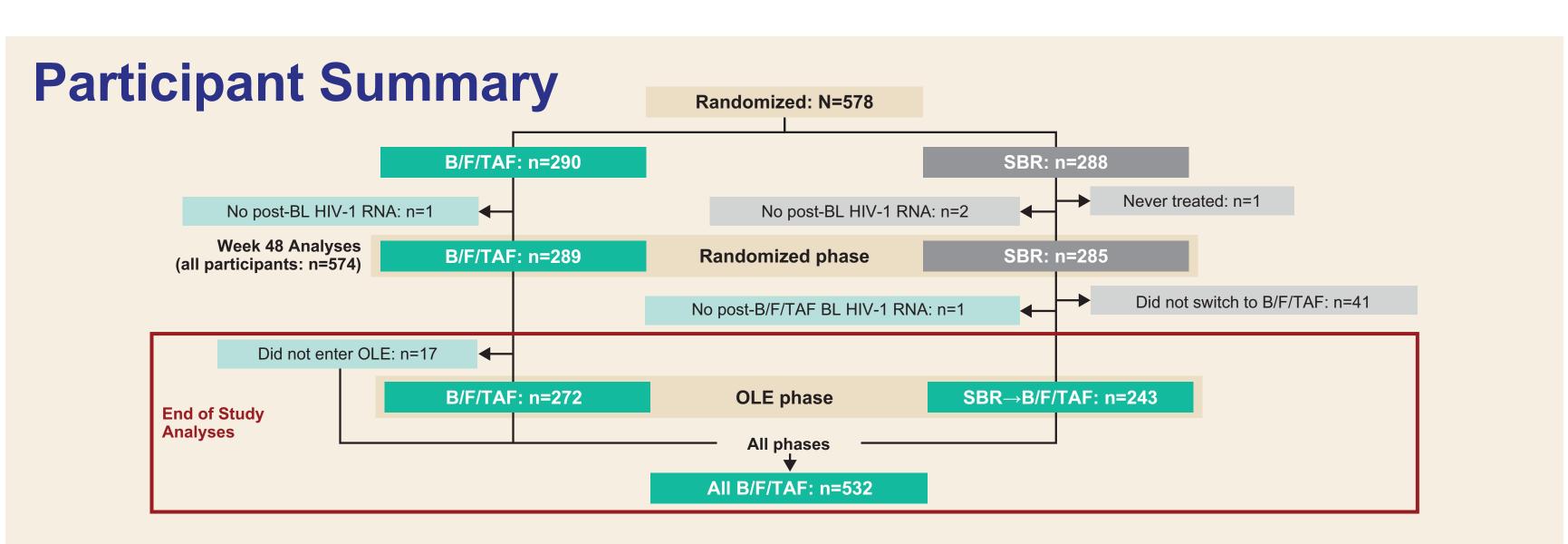
INSTI, IN strand transfer inhibitor; NNRTI, non-NRTI; R, resistance; RPV, rilpivirine; TAMs, thymidine analog mutations.

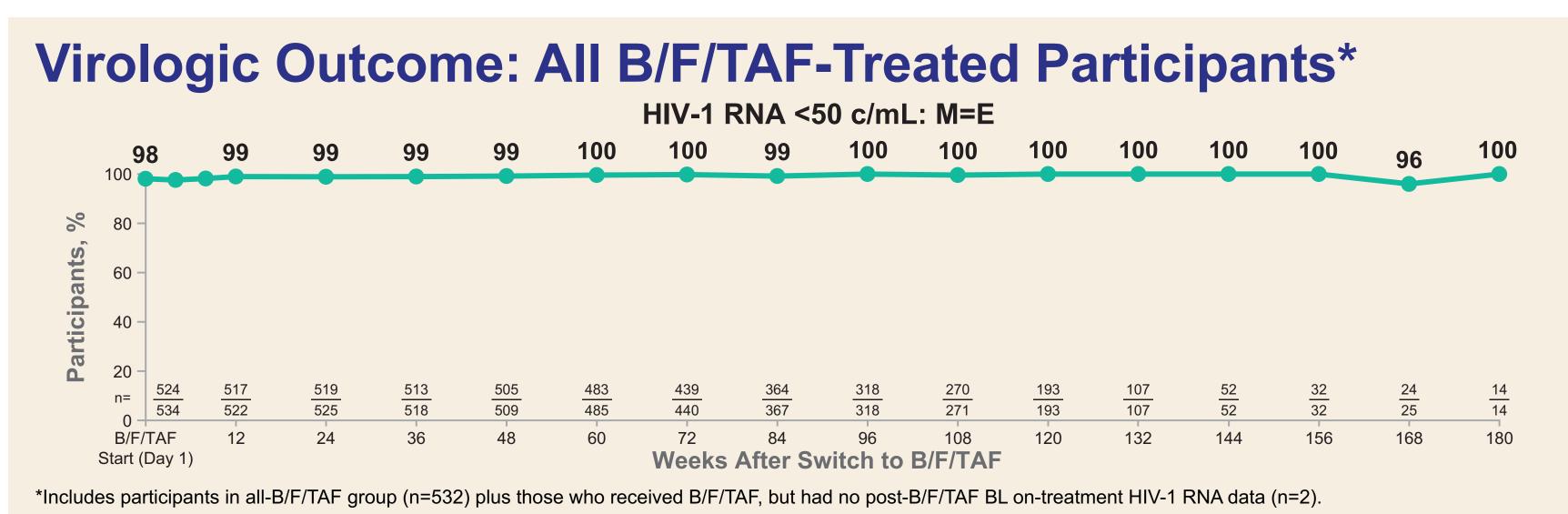
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Efficacy Analyses

- Analyses included all participants who had ≥ 1 on-treatment HIV-1 RNA measurement
- ◆ Viral blip: after the BL visit, a single HIV-1 RNA value ≥50 c/mL preceded and followed by HIV-1 RNA <50 c/mL
- Virologic outcome:
- Proportion of participants with HIV-1 RNA <50 c/mL by missing=excluded (M=E) approach – Proportions of participants with HIV-1 RNA < and ≥50 c/mL by last-observation-carried-
- forward imputation; participants with early discontinuation had virologic outcomes determined based on last available on-treatment HIV-1 RNA measurement

Results





- High levels of virologic suppression were maintained after switching to B/F/TAF from a boosted PI-based regimen
- Median duration of B/F/TAF exposure: 101 weeks (interquartile range 72–120; maximum 181)

Baseline Resistance Data Sources

All pa	articipants: n=574 7%							
	Historical genotype only	only		/TAF 289			All N=574	
	39% Historical +	Participants, n (%)*	PR/RT	IN	PR/RT	IN	PR/RT	IN
9%	BL DNA genotype	BL data available	276 (96)	259 (90)	247 (87)	227 (80)	523 (91)	486 (85)
No data		Historical genotype*	141 (49)	5 (2)	122 (43)	11 (4)	263 (46)	16 (3)
	45% BL DNA genotype	BL DNA genotype	259 (90)	259 (90)	223 (78)	223 (78)	482 (84)	482 (84)
	only							

*99% of historical genotypes were plasma HIV-1 RNA genotypes and 1% were HIV-1 DNA genotypes. PR, protease.

Resistance Substitutions at Baseline

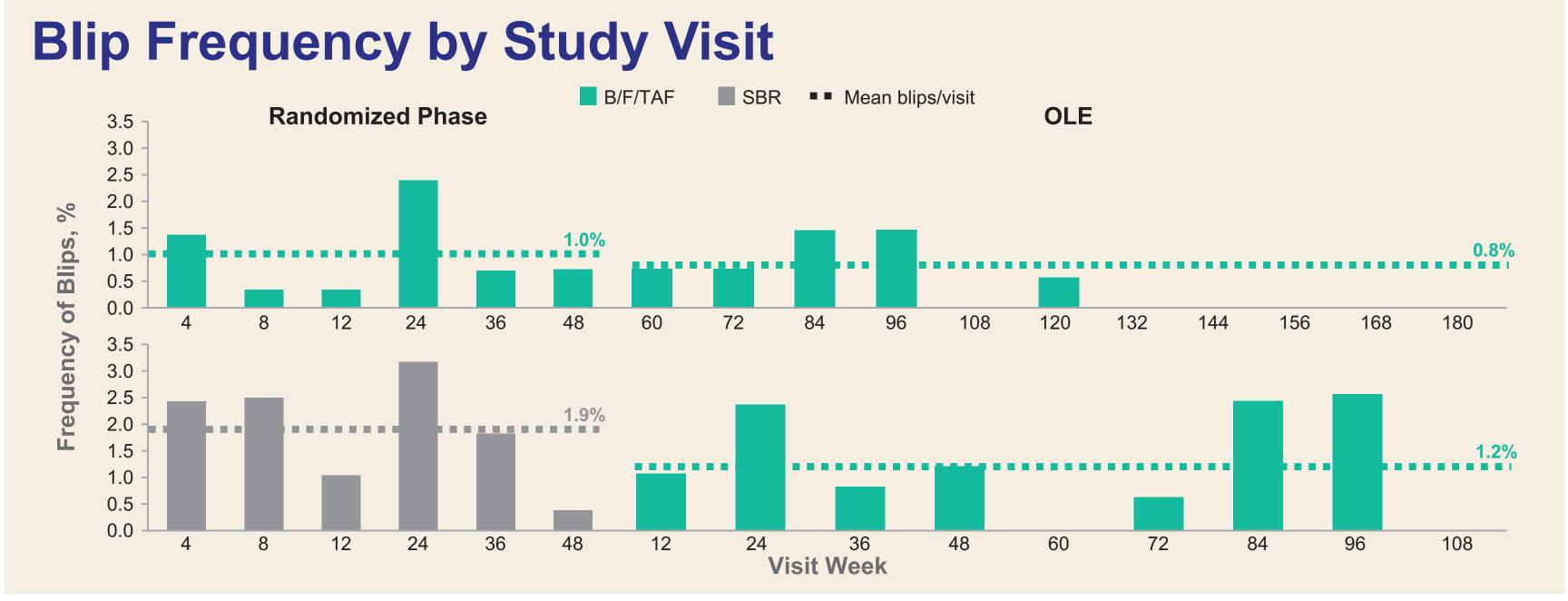
	B/F/TAF: n=289	SBR: n=285
PR/RT data available, n	276	247
NRTI-R, n cumulative (%) [n historical; n BL DNA]	63 (23%) [7; 62]	41 (17%) [9; 36]
K65R	4 (1%) [0; 4]	5 (2%) [1; 4]
M184V/I	44 (16%) [1; 44]	20 (8%) [0; 19]
Any TAM	30 (11%) [7; 29]	28 (11%) [8; 24]
1–2 TAMs	20 (7%) [7; 19]	15 (6%) [3; 13]
≥3 TAMs	10 (4%) [0; 10]	3 (1%) [5; 11]
Other (L74I/V, Y115F, Q151M)	4 (1%) [0; 4]	2 (1%) [1; 1]
NNRTI-R, n cumulative (%) [n historical; n BL DNA]	79 (29%) [29; 72]	59 (24%) [24; 51]
K103N/S	43 (16%) [19; 39]	32 (13%) [13; 29]
RPV-R	35 (13%) [10; 32]	28 (11%) [10; 22]
PI-R, n cumulative (%) [n historical; n BL DNA]	29 (11%) [6; 27]	25 (10%) [4; 22]
ATV or DRV associated*	3 (1%) [0; 3]	5 (2%) [0; 5]
IN data available, n	259	227
Primary INSTI-R, n cumulative (%) [n historical; n BL DNA]	6 (2%) [0; 6]	8 (4%) [0; 8]
T97A	4 (2%) [0; 4]	3 (1%) [0; 3]
Other [†]	2 (1%) [0; 2]	5 (2%) [0; 5]
Secondary INSTI-R, n cumulative (%) [n historical; n BL DNA]	134 (52%) [2; 132]	96 (42%) [7; 95]
M50I	53 (20%) [1; 53]	36 (16%) [2; 36]
S119P/R/T	87 (34%) [1; 87]	56 (25%) [3; 55]
E157K/Q	14 (5%) [0; 14]	6 (3%) [0; 6]

*I47V. I50L/V. I54M/L, L76V, I84V, and N88S in PR; [†]B/F/TAF: S147G or E92G (cumulative n=1 each); SBR: E92G (cumulative n=2), or S146G, Q148R, or N155H (cumulative n=1 each).

Overview of Viral Blips

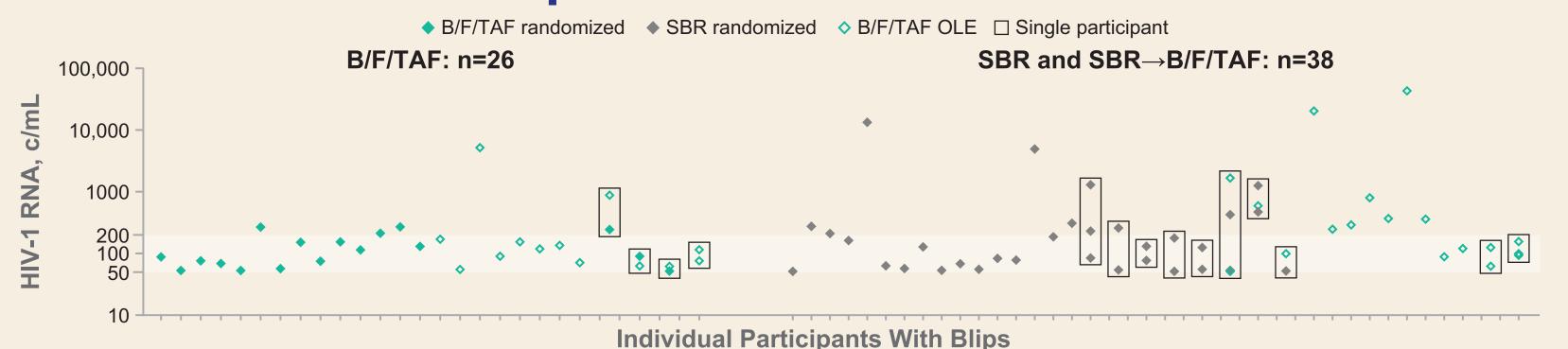
		B/F/ ⁻	TAF	SBR	SBR→B/F/TAF	
Study Phase		Randomized	OLE	Randomized	OLE	
Participants, n		289	272	285	243	
Experienced blips, n (%)		17 (6)	12 (4)	24 (8)	14 (6)	
Visits, n		1727	1721	1678	1537	
Blip events, n (%)		17	13	32	18	
Blips/visit, %		1.0	0.8	1.9	1.2	
HIV-1 RNA at	<50 c/mL	15/17 (88)	12/12 (100)	24/24 (100)	13/14 (93)	
last visit, n/N (%)	≥50 c/mL	2/17 (12)*	0	0	1/14 (7)†	

had blips at Week 48 visit and HIV-1 RNA <50 c/mL at end of study; ⁺Last visit on B/F/TAF was ≥50 c/mL, but resuppressed to <50 c/mL on commercial B/F/TAF.



 Viral blips occurred at a frequency of ~1% for B/F/TAF-treated participants vs 2% for SBR participants

HIV-1 RNA at Viral Blip



Most blips were <200 c/mL:</p>

- 33/48 blips (69%) for participants on B/F/TAF in the randomized and OLE phases (median treatment duration: 109 weeks)

- 21/32 blips (66%) for SBR participants in the randomized phase (median treatment duration: 48 weeks)

	and Adherence by Blip Status:					
All B/F/TAF	All BF/TA					
	≥1 Blip: n=40	No Blips: n=492	p-Value			

	≥1 Blip: n=40	No Blips: n=492	p-Value
Mean adherence by pill count, % (range)	96 (86–100)	96 (24–100)*	0.78†
Mean BL CD4 cells/µL (range)	588 (172–2015)	667 (122–2582)	0.14 ⁺
BL resistance, n/n (%)	18/40 (45)	199/458 (43) [‡]	0.85 [§]
BL M184V/I, n/n (%)	3/40 (8) [∥]	59/458 (13) [‡]	0.32§

2-tailed t-test; +34 participants without BL genotypic data were excluded; %Fisher exact test; "All 3 par RNA <50 c/mL at last visit

 BL characteristics, preexisting resistance, and overall adherence were not significantly different for participants with ≥ 1 vs no blips

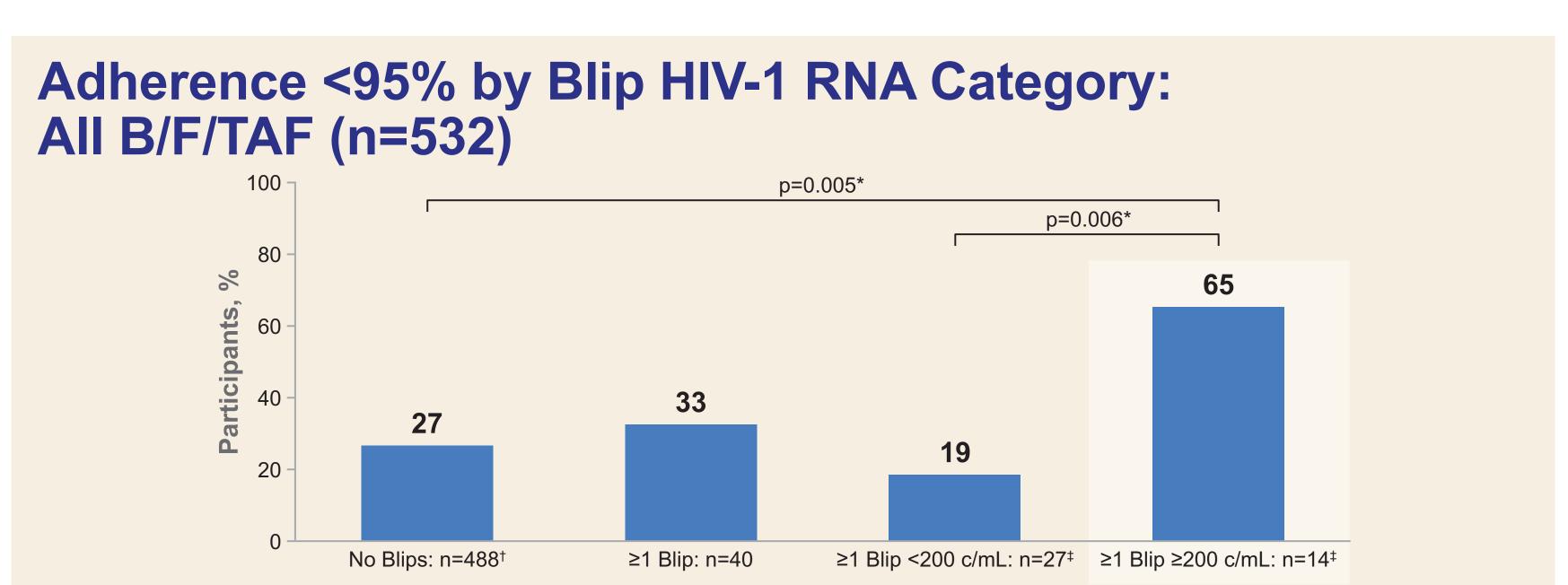
- Other BL characteristics not significantly associated with blips: race and gender

Conclusions

- High levels of virologic suppression were maintained after switching to B/F/TAF, with no treatment-emergent resistance – 99% of participants had HIV-1 RNA <50 c/mL at their last study visit (B/F/TAF duration: median 101 and maximum 181 weeks)
- ◆ 44% of B/F/TAF-treated participants had ≥1 primary resistance-associated substitution at BL, including 12% with M184V/1 and 11% with ≥1 TAM - 98% with any primary resistance, 95% with M184V/I, and 96% with TAMs had HIV-1 RNA <50 c/mL at last visit
- Viral blips were infrequent among B/F/TAF-treated participants, occurring in ~1% per study visit, and did not affect virologic outcomes – Viral blips ≥200 c/mL were associated with lower adherence (<95% by pill count)
- Long-term suppression and the absence of treatment-emergent resistance demonstrate the durable efficacy of B/F/TAF

. EACS European AIDS Clinical Society. Guidelines Version 10.1, Oct 2020; 2. Panel on Antiretroviral Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Guidelines for Adults and Adolescents. Guidelines for Adults and Adolescents with HIV. Dept of Health and Human Services; 2021; 3. Panel on Antiretroviral Therapy and Medical Management of Children Living with HIV. Guidelines for Adults and Adolescents. Guidelines for Adults and Adolescents. Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in Adults and Adolescents. Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in Adults and Adolescents. Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in Adults and Adolescents. Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in Adults and Adolescents. Guidelines for Adults and Adolescents. Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in Adults and Adolescents. Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in Adults and Adolescents. Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in Adults and Adolescents. Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in Adults and Adolescents. Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in Adults and Adolescents. Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in Adults and Adolescents. Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in Adults and Adolescents. Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in Adults and Adolescents. Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in Adults and Bervices; 2020; 3. Cutrell Agents in Adults and Bervices; 2020; 3. Cutrell Agents in Adults and Bervices; 2020; 3. Cutrell Agents in Adults and Bervices; 3. Cutrell Agents in Adults and Berv 2021:12:663843; **10.** Zoufaly A, et al. HIV Med 2014:15:4449-57; **11.** Gagliardini R, et al. Open Forum Infect Dis 2012;205:1230-8; **13.** Porter DP, et al. Antivir Ther 2017;22:495-502; **14.** Wensing AM, et al. Top Antivir Med 2017;24:132-41. Acknowledgments: We extend our thanks to the participants, their families, and all participating study investigators and staff. This study was funded by Gilead Sciences, Inc.

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 Blips with HIV-1 RNA ≥200 c/mL (range 213–43,000 c/mL) were significantly associated with <95% adherence

Efficacy Outcomes and Resistance Analysis Population

		B/F	/TAF	SBR	SBR→B/F/TAF	
Study Phase		Randomized	Randomized and OLE	Randomized	OLE	
Study visit		Week 48	End of study Week 48		End of study	
Median study drug duration, weeks		48	120	120 48		
Participants, n		289	272	285	243	
HIV-1 RNA at <50 c/mL		284/289 (98)	27/281 (98)	279/285 (98)	259/264 (98)	
last visit, n/n (%)	≥50 c/mL	5/289 (2)	5/281 (2)	6/285 (2)	5/264 (2)	
Analyzed for resistance (PR/RT/IN), n		2	3	6	1	
Resuppressed to <50 c/mL, n Any emergent resistance, n		1	2	2	1	
		0	0	1 (L74I in RT)	0	

High efficacy was observed in both the randomized and OLE phases

There was no treatment-emergent resistance to B/F/TAF

Virologic Outcomes by Archived Resistance or Blips in All **B/F/TAF Group**

N N with HIV-1 RNA <50 c/mL, including participants with resuppression on commercial B/F/TAF (no change in regimen)

	%	n/n	Participant	s With HIV-1 R	NA <50 c/mL a	t Last Visit, %		Median B/F/TAF Duration, Weeks
AF	All B/F/TAF 100	525/532					99 <mark>99</mark>	101
All B/F/TAF n=532	No blips 92	486/492					99 99	98
All	≥1 blip 8	39/40					98 100	109
	No primary R (PR, RT, IN) 56	279/281					99 100	96
	Any primary R (PR, RT, IN) 44	212/217					98 99	108
	NRTI-R 20	94/98					96 97	108
Data	M184V/I 12	59/62*					95 97	95
Resistance n=498	Any TAM 11	52/54					96 96	100
esista n=4	1–2 TAMs 7	31/33					94 94	107
BL R	≥3 TAMs 4	21/21					100 100	96
	NNRTI-R 26	127/129					98 99	108
	PI-R 10	52/52					100 100	103
	INSTI-R 3	14/14					100 100	103
		0	20	40	60	80	100	

arate), and 1 experienced confirmed virologic failure with HIV-1 RNA of 2860 c/mL, documented poor adherence, undetectable BIC plasma concent and no treatment-emergent resistance, and discontinued at the following visit with HIV-1 RNA of 1510 c/mL.

High efficacy was maintained in participants with archived resistance or viral blips