

PrEP Side Effects: Know the Facts!

Don't let concern for side effects stop you from taking PrEP.

Tips for using this sheet: The percentages below are the percentage of people who took each medication during the research studies who reported experiencing side effects. Notice that even the most common side effects are rare.

Positive Effects		Truvada emtricitabine- tenofovir	Descovy emtricitabine- tenofovir alafen	Apretude cabotegravir
Put you in control of your sexual health		✓	✓	✓
Protects you from HIV infection		✓	✓	✓
Doesn't require you to remember to take pill				✓
Helps strengthen your bones				✓
Side Effects		Truvada	Descovy	Apretude
Common	*Upset Stomach, Nausea, Vomiting, Diarrhea	< 6%	≤ 5%	4%
	**Buttock Pain from Injection	Not reported	0%	98%
Rare	Decrease in Liver Function	7%	Not reported	≤ 3%
	***Significant Decrease in Liver Function	< 1%	Low	≤ 5%
	***Decrease in Bone Density	4%	1%	< 1%
	***Weight Gain	Not reported	Not reported	< 1%
	***Weight Loss	3%	Not reported	Not reported

**Buttock pain decreases over time and each injection becomes easier. Your provider may recommend that you take acetaminophen or naproxen as needed to manage the pain.

*Stomach symptoms go away within two weeks of starting Truvada and Descovy. Taking either medication before bed has been shown to decrease stomach symptoms.

***More common in people with history of Hepatitis B or other liver diseases.