medicines patent pool

March 2025

MK-8527

HIV PREVENTION

MSD

DISEASE BURDEN

In 2023, 39.9 million people globally were living with HIV, 1.3 million people became newly infected, and 630,000 people died of HIV, most of which occurred in LMICs.

CLINICAL RELEVANCE

MK-8527, an investigational NRTTI for HIV prevention, shares similarities with islatravir, offering high potency and a strong resistance barrier. It is being evaluated for once-monthly oral dosing for HIV PrEP, with results from the recently completed phase IIa study expected by Q2 2025.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LANDSCAPE

MK-8527 primary patents with an expected expiry in 2034 have been granted to MSD in at least 35 LMICs and are pending in another 13 countries. Secondary patent filings are to be expected.

SERVICE DELIVERY ENABLERS

An oral long-acting (monthly) HIV PrEP option could be an important tool, that would combine advantages of long-acting therapies (e.g., adherence, discretion, no daily reminder of HIV risk) while minimising health system requirements (e.g., aligning with decentralised service delivery and multi-month dispensing efforts).

HIV: Human immunodeficiency virus; LMICs: low-income, lower middle-income and upper middle-income countries as per World Bank classification; NRTTI: nucleoside reverse transcriptase translocation inhibitor; WHO: The World Health Organization