



- Home
- About MRMC
- Newsletters
- Medical Research & Development
- Congressional Research Programs
- Regulatory Offices
- Logistics & Acquisition
- IM / IT
- Awareness Training
- Advanced Technologies
- Research Proposal
- Training Resources
- Links & Resources
- FAQ
- Advanced Search
- Contact Us



US Army Medical Research & Materiel Command

HIV Vaccine Trial in Thailand to Continue

Independent data and safety monitoring board (DSMB) found no safety concerns.

Fort Detrick, Md. - July 17, 2008 - A large, multi-center HIV vaccine clinical trial in Thailand will continue with the vaccine. This recommendation was made during a scheduled July 16 review by an independent data and safety monitoring board (DSMB).

While no conclusions can be drawn from this DSMB meeting regarding the efficacy of the vaccine, the board found the data for statistical futility and recommended that the trial continue. Final analysis is scheduled to begin in 2009.

The DSMB monitoring the study has met seven times since 2003 to review the trial for potential safety concerns and has found no safety concerns at any time.

The study, referred to as RV 144, is sponsored by the U.S. Army Surgeon General and is being conducted in collaboration with the Thai Ministry of Public Health with support from the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command and the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The Phase III clinical study, which began in October 2003, is testing a prime-boost combination of two HIV subtypes that circulate in Thailand. The priming vaccine, known as ALVAC-HIV, was developed using a canary-pox vector that elicits an immune response from T cells, which can kill HIV-infected cells. The second vaccine, AIDSVAX B/E®, which was originally developed by VaxGen and is now licensed to Global Solutions, elicits an antibody response from the immune system. Neither vaccine can cause HIV infection.

A total of 16,402 HIV-negative men and women between the ages of 18 and 30 participated in the study. Half of the participants received the prime-boost vaccine regimen and half received placebo. Vaccinations ended in 2005. Study volunteers have continued to receive an HIV test every six months for three years following vaccination and are receiving counseling on how to prevent becoming infected with HIV.

Volunteers who acquired HIV infection during the trial are being given free access to HIV care and treatment, including highly active antiretroviral therapy, according to the guidelines of the Thai Ministry of Public Health. They are also receiving extended follow-up in a separate study.

Findings from this clinical study should significantly contribute to the scientific understanding of HIV and provide techniques for building clinical trial capacity and engaging communities for HIV vaccine research. The knowledge gained through this clinical trial will inform future HIV vaccine studies.

An HIV vaccine continues to be our best hope for ending the HIV pandemic. The U.S. Army is committed to developing a globally-effective HIV vaccine to protect U.S. troops from infection and reduce the global impact of the disease.

The U.S. Army would like to thank the Thai men and women who consented to participate in this trial. Their high rate of participation is essential to its success.

Media inquiries can be directed to USMHRP Communications Office at 301-251-5000 or ireilly@hivrc.org

The U.S. Military HIV Research Program (USMHRP) is a tri-service effort headed by the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in collaboration with the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command.