

GRADE table: What ARV regimen to start in children younger than 3 years old?**Author(s):** Penazzato M.**Date:** 2012-11-30**Question:** Should Induction with a four-drug (containing three NRTIs) NNRTI-based regimen versus standard NNRTI-based regimen be used among infants and young children living with HIV younger than three years old?**Settings:** Low- and middle-income countries**Bibliography:** ARROW team 2012

Quality assessment							No. of patients		Effect		Quality	Importance
No. of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Induction with four-drug (containing three NRTIs) NNRTI-based regimen	Standard NNRTI-based regimen	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute		
Change in CD4% at 36 weeks (follow-up median four years; better indicated by lower values)												
1	randomized trials ¹	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	serious ²	no serious imprecision	none	390	375	-	mean 1.70 higher (0.61 to 2.79 higher)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE	CRITICAL
Change in CD4% at 72 weeks (follow-up median four years; better indicated by lower values)												
1	randomized trials	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	serious ²	no serious imprecision	none	388	374	-	mean difference 0.70 higher (0.51 lower to 1.91 higher)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE	CRITICAL
Change in CD4% at 144 weeks (follow-up median four years; better indicated by lower values)												
1	randomized trials	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	serious ²	no serious imprecision	none	388	373	-	mean difference 0.20 lower (1.48 lower to 1.08 higher)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE	CRITICAL

Mortality (follow-up median four years)												
1	randomized trials	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness ²	serious ³	none	-	-	HR 0.68 (0.34 to 1.34) ⁴	-	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE	CRITICAL
								0%		-		
Mortality or new WHO stage 3 or 4 HIV disease (follow-up median four years)												
1	randomized trials	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness ²	serious ³	none	-	-	HR 0.90 (0.54 to 1.51) ⁴	-	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE	CRITICAL
								0%		-		
Mortality or new WHO stage 3 or 4 HIV disease or death (follow-up median four years)												
1	randomized trials	no serious risk of bias	no serious inconsistency	no serious indirectness ²	serious ³	none	-	-	HR 0.82 (0.56 to 1.21) ⁴	-	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE	CRITICAL
								0%		-		

¹ Induction phase with four drugs was maintained for the first 36 weeks.

² Children enrolled in the trial had a median age of six years (interquartile range 3 months to 17 years), particularly relevant for immunological outcomes.

³ Small number of events in all arms.

⁴ Over the follow-up time there was very weak evidence of a difference in mortality and WHO stage 3 or 4 HIV disease between arms ($P = 0.43$).