

SALVAGE THERAPY

Following failure of two or more ARV regimens, durable virologic suppression is unlikely. However, prevention of further immunologic deterioration is possible even in the absence of full virologic suppression. Studies have demonstrated that highly treatment-experienced patients, including those with demonstrably high levels of ARV resistance, generally fare better clinically if they remain on HAART than if they discontinue HAART altogether. Hence, while full virologic suppression may not be a realistic goal for highly treatment-experienced patients, attempts should be made to construct a regimen that will still maintain some efficacy and hopefully prevent or slow further progression of HIV disease. The design of salvage therapy regimens is exceedingly complex and should be performed in consultation with an expert HIV clinician.