An observational study for patients living with HIV who have been on antiretroviral therapy for at least one year.

What is the research study’s purpose?

Many patients living with HIV who are on antiretroviral therapy have a lot of dental as well as non-infectious systemic medical needs. Non-infectious systemic diseases are conditions that you cannot catch from someone else, such as diabetes, heart disease, and osteoporosis. The purpose of this study is to investigate different oral and systemic problems including dental caries, periodontal disease, dry mouth, high cholesterol, diabetes, heart disease and osteoporosis; observed in patients living with HIV on antiretroviral therapy (ART). This study will also explore whether poor oral health may make these conditions worse.

HOW TO BE A PART OF THIS STUDY

For more information, and to see if you may be eligible, please contact our study team at:
215-908-5667
PDM-OHART@dental.upenn.edu
What is the research study?

This research study is being conducted to evaluate the association between oral and systemic health conditions in patients living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), who have been on antiretroviral therapy (ART) for at least one year.

We hope that by collecting data about the oral and overall health of individuals with HIV who are on ART, we will be able to identify ways to improve the health and quality of life of these individuals.

What am I being asked to do?

Screening and Baseline Visit

After being identified as a potential participant, you would attend a screening and baseline visit which will include collecting demographic information, review of medical and medication history, and a review of your most recent blood work. If we determine that you are eligible to participate, we will ask you to complete questionnaires, complete a comprehensive oral exam, collect saliva and swabs from your tongue, and take a mouth x-ray and bone density scan.

Follow-up Visits

If you are eligible to participate, we will ask you to attend study visits once every six months for 2.5 years. During these visits we will ask you to complete questionnaires, complete a comprehensive oral exam, collect saliva sample, collect swabs from your tongue, and collect a blood sample. We will also take a mouth x-ray and bone density scan one more time.

How long will I be in the study?

This study will enroll 350 subjects total.

You will be expected to come once every 6 months for 2.5 years. That’s a total of 6 visits.

What are the possible risks or discomforts?

There are few risks associated with a dental exam. You may experience minor discomfort or pain during periodontal probing. These effects should be temporary.

What are the possible benefits of the study?

Except for more frequent monitoring of oral and systemic health, there is no direct benefit expected from participation in this study. However, it is hoped the knowledge gained will be of benefit to other HIV patients on ART in the future.

Will I be paid for being in this study?

Compensation will be provided to individuals who qualify and attend study visits. In order to be compensated for your participation in this study, you must provide your Social Security Number.

Will I have to pay for anything?

You will not be charged for any study-related procedures during your participation in this study.