HIV anti-retroviral drug defects TRUVADA and VIREAD CASES AGAINST GILEAD SCIENCES

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Pennsylvania Association for Justice, January 2020

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What is Truvada/TDF? Complications?

- It contains the active ingredient tenofovir disproxil fumerate (TDF)
- It can be used for "pre-exposure prophylaxis" or as part of a drug regimen to suppress HIV in people already suffering from the virus.
- In 2012, it was the first drug approved by the FDA for use in preventing HIV-negative people from getting HIV
- COMPLICATIONS:
  - Kidney failure – been found to clog filtration function of kidneys; renal failure
  - Osteoporosis, leading to bone fractures and brittle bones; a decrease in bone density
  - Dental issues

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Liability against Gilead Sciences

- Allegations that Gilead Sciences had developed a similarly effective drug [tenofovir alafenamide fumarate (TAF)], with less toxic side effects
- TDF must be taken in larger quantities/doses than TAF, so the theory is that TDF would make Gilead more money because more doses are required
- Allegations that Gilead had patent approved in 2000, shelved TAF in 2004, did not begin to sell TAF drugs until 2015. TDF patents began to expire in 2018.
- Gilead manufactures, markets and sells Viread, Truvada, Atripla, Complera and Stribild (Viread was first on the market in 2001)

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What happens if you have a TDF case?

- Northern District of California, the district where Gilead Sciences is headquartered (3:18-cv-06972) and many, many California state court cases
- Approximately 1,500 cases are filed
- Drugs were given to approximately 1-2 million Americans
- The universe of cases: approximately 20,000 to 60,0000 cases
- Drugs were prescribed to Medicaid recipients

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