A potential therapeutic for treatment of HIV/AIDS

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Technology description

The invention is a potential HIV therapy that specifically targets the human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1).
The need of effective and cheaper treatments for HIV is critical due to increasing infection rates across the developed and developing worlds. Small interfering RNA (siRNA) or short hairpin RNA (shRNA) are able to mediate gene silencing by having sequence complementarity to a specific gene. As an alternative to antiretroviral drugs, it works by targeting a specific region on HIV-1 using a range of siRNAs which suppresses gene expression. Preliminary studies have indicated successful long-term suppression of viral replication using this method.

Advantages

Potentially long-term suppression of HIV gene expression
Less susceptible to gene mutations and thus resistance compared to post-transcriptional targets
Does not require long-term daily dosage regimes with adverse side effects

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