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HIV drugs prevent infection in African study

WASHINGTON: People across Africa who took AIDS drugs were far less likely to infect their partners with the virus, researchers said last Wednesday.

The study, presented at a meeting of AIDS experts, is one of the first to show so clearly that the drugs can prevent infection as well as keep patients healthy.

It could boost efforts to provide the AIDS drugs to people, especially in the hardest-hit countries in Africa.

Dr. Deborah Donnell of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle and colleagues followed 3,400 couples in which one partner was infected and the other was not in seven African countries.