

Fulyzaq approved for ART-related diarrhea in HIV/AIDS

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(HealthDay)—The first medication to treat diarrhea in people with HIV/AIDS who take antiretroviral drugs has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Fulyzaq (crofelemer) is sanctioned for people whose diarrhea is not caused by an infection or [gastrointestinal disorder](#) but by the antiretroviral drugs used to combat HIV/AIDS, the FDA said in a news release. The drug is derived from the red sap of the *Croton lechleri* plant.

Fulyzaq's safety and effectiveness were evaluated in a clinical study involving 374 people who were HIV-positive, on stable drug therapy, and who had had diarrhea for one month or longer. About 17.6 percent of people who took Fulyzaq had a positive "clinical response," compared with a positive response among 8 percent of people who took a placebo.

All participants in the study were tested to confirm that their symptoms were not caused by an infection or [gastrointestinal disease](#), the FDA said. Common side effects to Fulyzaq's use were upper [respiratory tract infection](#), bronchitis, cough, flatulence, and an increase in the liver enzyme bilirubin.

The drug is distributed by Salix Pharmaceuticals, based in Raleigh, N.C.

More information: [More Information](#)

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