

# Innovation and Diffusion of Medical Treatment\*

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## **Preliminary and Incomplete**

**ABSTRACT:** We develop and estimate a dynamic structural model of demand for a product line whose spectrum of characteristics evolves over time because innovation is endogenous to consumer demand. To achieve this goal, we provide a new approach to the econometric challenge of estimating the process of technological change where innovation under uncertainty includes both frequent and incremental modifications along with sporadic major breakthroughs. Quality in our model is a multidimensional object: new products that are superior in some dimensions might be inferior in others. For example, new medicines more effective in combating disease than existing products sometimes have harsher side effects. In our model consumer choices determine both the speed and the direction of product innovation. Demand externalities arise because the aggregate choices of atomistic individuals drive innovation. We apply our framework to analyze consumer choice and the realized path of innovations over a long time horizon in a maturing product market: HIV drugs. In this market, we observe the introduction of hundreds of new products, marking mostly modest, but sometimes major innovations over existing technologies. Our estimates are obtained through simulations of alternative hypothetical worlds that might have arisen if the innovations had taken different paths to the ones we observe. We use our estimates to assess the effects of policies that internalize the externalities affecting innovation and consumer welfare by modifying consumer choices. We find that experimentation in clinical trials is one of the mechanisms through which the externality operates.

**KEYWORDS:** Innovation, Dynamic Demand, Structural Models, HIV/AIDS, Clinical Trials.

**JEL CLASSIFICATION:** O31.

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# 1 Introduction

In many product markets, innovation can lead to substantial quality changes from one point in time to the next. Research on product innovation tends to emphasize demand responses and consumer surplus. Going back to Hicks (1932) economists have recognized that market demand not only responds to, but also drives innovation. Sometimes known as “demand pull”, the idea is that firms respond to consumer preferences by shifting resources towards the development of products that meet potential demand (Schmookler, 1966; Scherer, 1982). Demand pull implies a possible externality if the market fails to price the impact of consumer choices on innovation (Jovanovic and MacDonald, 1994; Waldfogel, 2003; Finkelstein, 2004; Goettler and Gordon, 2011). A potential implication is that innovation does not progress as quickly as it would if the externality were priced.

Several features of the market for pharmaceuticals make it an interesting context to study demand pull. First, medical products have two dimensions of quality: efficacy and side effects and consumer preferences are heterogeneous. Thus, it is not generally meaningful to see one product as strictly better than another and many differentiated products can coexist in a given market. Innovations can also be better on one dimension and worse along another, a leading example being effective new medicines with harsh side effects. Second, in medical markets product quality is often uncertain, especially when products are new. Experimentation is therefore common among consumers and helps to drive both the speed and the direction of future innovation (Bolton and Harris, 1999; Dranove et al., 2014). Though experimentation occurs in many markets, a unique feature of the market for pharmaceuticals is that patients often resort to trying possibly dangerous new medical compounds (for example through participation in clinical trials) only when they are sick and lack access to better options. It is thus often the most desperate among consumers who drive medical innovation, which benefits healthier patients along with generations of potential future patients.<sup>1</sup> One possible implication for medical markets is that correctly pricing the externality could improve not only efficiency, but also equity. The reasoning is that incentivizing experimentation among all consumers (rather than relying solely upon the sickest patients) not only speeds innovation as in other markets, but also distributes the burden of innovating more evenly across patients.

In this paper, we introduce an empirical framework to capture how innovation along multiple dimensions of quality is endogenous to aggregate consumer demand. Our framework centers on estimating a multi-dimensional distribution of innovations, which is then embed-

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<sup>1</sup>This point is linked to the model of endogenous growth in Romer (1986) where producer innovations may generate profits for potential future producers.

ded into a structural model of dynamic demand. In the model, forward-looking consumers make choices after forming expectations over potential future innovations. Optimal consumer choices are then aggregated into market shares, which help to drive both the speed and the direction of innovation by determining how new products are drawn from the distribution of innovations. In this sense, the model takes explicit account of demand externalities, which arise since the aggregate behavior of atomistic consumers affects dynamic payoffs through its impact on innovation. We match our model to data on the realized path of innovations, product quality and consumer choices over a long time horizon in a maturing product market: HIV drugs.<sup>2</sup>

We highlight three features of our framework, which depart from earlier literature. First, we allow consumers to experiment with products in several ways. Consumers form expectations over the qualities of the products available to them and become fully aware of their qualities only after they have used a product at least once. Alternatively, consumers may experiment with new technologies that are not yet on the market. In software, this is known as beta-testing; in medicine, this is done through participation in clinical trials. Experimental products may be superior to products already on the market, but they may also be of dangerously low quality. Second, consumers are neither fully aware of how the product market will evolve, nor are they fully unaware, in which case technology change amounts to unexpected regime change. Rather, we use the full history of product introductions to estimate a stochastic process of product innovation and assume that agents use this process to form expectations about future innovations. Third, atomistic consumers in our model are fully aware that aggregate demand ultimately drives the path of innovation. In forming expectations, each consumer takes account of this. For example, consumers in relatively good health may face incentives to delay costly switches to new or experimental treatments if they expect other consumers to participate in trials and thus generate better drugs in the future.

We apply our framework to the market for HIV drugs. HIV is a medical condition that reduces the ability of the immune system to fight off routine infections (a condition known as AIDS).<sup>3</sup> It reached epidemic proportions in several countries, including the U.S., starting in 1984. In developed countries, where access to medication is widespread and subsidized, HIV has reached a point where the condition is manageable and side effects of medications are fairly mild. However, this was not always the case. In the early years of the epidemic, available treatments were not only largely ineffective, but also had uncomfortable, painful and even deadly side effects. Each year brought innovations that were incremental at best.

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<sup>2</sup>HIV stands for human immunodeficiency virus.

<sup>3</sup>AIDS stands for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome.

Indeed, as we will show, some new products were worse since they were more toxic without being more effective. In the mid-nineties, a new set of treatments (collectively known as HAART) was introduced, which effectively transformed HIV from a virtual death sentence to a chronic condition.<sup>4</sup> Within two years, the introduction of HAART reduced mortality rates by over 80% among HIV+ men (Bhaskaran et al., 2008). HAART therefore marked a clear departure from existing products in the market for HIV treatments. However, HAART involved drugs that were highly toxic, leading to side effects that were often intolerable and drove some people to avoid using them. In other words, HAART comprised treatments that were better on some dimensions, but worse on others. Thereafter, a series of new drugs were introduced, which were effective and had fewer side effects.

We use data on HIV+ men’s treatment decisions and health outcomes over approximately 20 years. The benefit of observing a long panel in the market for HIV drugs is that we can watch the path of innovation unfold. Since we observe the same individuals over time, the evolving market allows us to identify both the stochastic process of innovation and consumer preferences. We exploit observed consumer decisions over time and the realized path of innovation to better understand how expectations were formed. *Ex post*, we observe that technological innovation occurred in fits and spurts. The path includes fairly incremental changes to drug qualities along with massive innovations that drastically altered the lives of consumers with HIV. An example of the latter is the introduction of HAART, which constitutes a key source of variation in product characteristics that we exploit to help identify our model. In our framework, large and drastic changes in the product market, such as HAART, are due to less likely draws from the same underlying distribution that generates more likely, smaller, incremental improvements.

We contribute to three separate literatures. The first studies how consumer behavior affects innovation. Schmookler (1966) formalized the idea, calling it “demand pull”.<sup>5</sup> Building on this idea, several papers have demonstrated that market size affects the speed of innovation. In a seminal contribution, Goettler and Gordon (2011) show that market structure also drives innovation. They find that in the market for computer processors, the presence of a second firm can slow innovation (since firms do not expect to capture all profits), but that consumer surplus falls in the absence of a competing firm due to monopolistic prices. In another contribution, Finkelstein (2004) shows that policies promoting vaccine use acceler-

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<sup>4</sup>HAART stands for highly active anti-retroviral treatment. There is no vaccine or cure for HIV or AIDS, but HAART is the current standard treatment. In general, 1996 is marked as the year when two crucial clinical guidelines that comprise HAART came to be commonly acknowledged. First, protease inhibitors (made widely available towards the end of 1995) would be an effective HIV treatment. Second, several anti-retroviral drugs taken simultaneously could indefinitely delay the onset of AIDS.

<sup>5</sup>Theoretical models of demand-driven innovation include Jovanovic and Rob (1987) and Miller (1988). Models of diffusion of products include Bass (1969), Jovanovic and MacDonald (1994).

ate the development of vaccines. Also in the medical context, Dranove et al. (2014) identify a “social value” of pharmaceutical innovation, showing that Medicare Part D spurred the development of some drugs. A common idea in this literature is that if consumer behavior drives innovation, which benefits other consumers, it follows that a demand externality arises. Waldfogel (2003) uses the term “preference externalities” to describe the mechanism through which market shares can influence products, thus benefitting consumers with similar tastes. He also highlights the individuals with different tastes benefit less.<sup>6</sup> More closely related to us, Bolton and Harris (1999) argue that a free-riding problem emerges if experimenting accelerates innovation. In our context, if clinical trials provide social benefits by spurring innovation, individually rational consumers may choose to participate less than is socially optimal.

A second literature we contribute to studies dynamic demand under uncertainty. Following Petrin (2002), each product in our model is a bundle of characteristics.<sup>7</sup> Moreover, in our framework, characteristics can have dynamic impacts on consumers (Gowrisankaran and Rysman, 2012). Literature on product choice has considered the idea that consumers are unaware of product characteristics or match value. Erdem and Keane (1996) study the value of experimentation with new products to learn about their qualities. Learning has been incorporated into dynamic models of pharmaceutical demand.<sup>8</sup> Examples are Crawford and Shum (2005) and Chan and Hamilton (2006), where the latter paper explicitly incorporates consumer distaste for side effects. We incorporate learning and uncertainty into our model in several ways. First, and similar to existing work, we model consumers as learning about existing market products that they have never used. Second, consumers can experiment with new products that are not yet widely available by participating in a clinical trial. Third, we depart from existing work on dynamic demand in how we model consumer expectations over the path of innovation. Most papers take the existing set of products as given or exogenous to the model and focus on demand responses to new products. In contrast, we explicitly model how consumers form expectations about future innovations, and allow them take into account that aggregate market shares can shift the direction of innovation.

Methodologically, we build on Hotz and Miller (1993) and Hotz et al. (1994) in using for-

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<sup>6</sup>Demand externalities have been discussed in a variety of scenarios, including sorting into neighborhoods (Bayer and McMillan, 2012) and the emergence of food deserts (Allcott et al., 2015). In the context of obesity, Bhattacharya and Packalen (2012) provide evidence that individual efforts to prevent obesity can shrink the market size for obesity treatments, which slows technological progress. If so, individuals may over-invest in preventative care compared to the social optimum.

<sup>7</sup>Studies pioneering the ‘characteristics approach’ include Stigler (1945), Lancaster (1966) and Rosen (1974).

<sup>8</sup>Empirical models of learning and experimentation also include Miller (1984) and Hincapié (2016).

ward simulation to incorporate how individuals form expectations about future innovations.<sup>9</sup> In our context, the choice set that individuals face is non-stationary. To make our model tractable, we summarize the current state of technology using a non-stationary reference point (or *centroid*) that emerges endogenously from consumer demand. We then define a non-parametric, stationary distribution of innovations identified from the distance between the centroid and new products in the following period. This is similar to what Goettler and Gordon (2011) do in their framework when studying microprocessor speed. However, there are some important differences to our setting and thus to our modeling choices. In their setting, product quality is one-dimensional and the innovation distribution is effectively binary (either improving by a fixed amount or not). They also assume consumer homogeneity, which means that the choice set in their context is also effectively limited to upgrading to the best technology or staying with the current one.

While the Goettler and Gordon (2011) model is well-equipped to analyze the market for microprocessors, in our case, we need to account for demand externalities where product quality is multi-dimensional. This means that new product qualities can move in many different directions on a two-dimensional plane. Also, as we show, the empirical distribution of innovations for HIV drugs is not well-approximated as movements with a fixed distance. Finally, we must account for a larger choice set since multiple dimensions of product quality coupled with consumer preference heterogeneity imply that many products can co-exist in a single market. In light of these features of our setting, when computing lifetime utility associated with each choice, we use forward simulation to capture how consumers make decisions after forming expectations about potential future innovations.<sup>10</sup>

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 describes the data set we use. In Section 3, we specify the structural model and in Section 4 we discuss estimation. In Section 5, we present parameter estimates and describe model implications for the distribution of innovations. In Section 6, we study counterfactual technology paths and the link between consumer choice and innovation. In Section 7, we examine the choice externality and consumer welfare. Section 8 concludes.

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<sup>9</sup>We also build on Altuğ and Miller (1998) in providing an empirical dynamic model with aggregate shocks.

<sup>10</sup>It is important to point out that, unlike Goettler and Gordon (2011), we do not explicitly model firm interaction or dynamic decisions. Therefore, we are unable to conduct policy analysis related to market structure using our framework. An interesting extension of the current paper would be to merge the two approaches by integrating firm decision-making into a model where products have multiple qualities.

## 2 Data

In this section we introduce the data set used in this paper and describe some of the key empirical patterns we use to identify structural parameters. We use the public data set from the Multi-Center AIDS cohort Study (MACS). The MACS is an ongoing longitudinal investigation (beginning in 1984) of HIV infection in men who have sex with men (MSM) conducted at four sites: Baltimore, Chicago, Pittsburgh and Los Angeles.<sup>11</sup> At each semi-annual visit, survey data are collected on HIV+ men’s treatment decisions, out-of-pocket treatment expenditures, physical ailments, which can reflect drug side effects, along with sociodemographic information, such as labor supply, income, race, and education.

In addition, blood tests are administered at each visit to objectively measure health status. Our main objective measure of immune system health is *CD4 count*, defined as the number of white blood cells per cubic millimeter of blood. Absent HIV infection, a normal range is between 500 and 1500. For HIV+ individuals, a count below 500 indicates that the immune system has begun to deteriorate due to HIV, but can still fight off infections such that the individual is not symptomatic. When CD4 count drops below about 300, a patient is said to suffer from AIDS.<sup>12</sup> AIDS means that the immune system becomes unable to fight off routine infections and survival probability drops.

### 2.1 Summary Statistics

The full MACS data set contains information on 6,972 subjects at 49 possible semi-annual visits for a total of 111,271 observations in the form of subject-visit dyads. We limit our attention to HIV+ individuals, leaving us with 47,753 observations. Due to lack of data on gross income and out-of-pocket treatment costs at earlier visits, we drop observations prior to visit 14 (roughly, late 1990) and for robustness in the reporting of survival we also drop observations after visit 47 (about 2008). These sample period restrictions leave us with 29,523 observations and 2,420 individuals. Next, we drop observations where data are missing on at least one of the variables used in subsequent analysis (though we conduct various robustness

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<sup>11</sup>Data in this manuscript were collected by the Multi-Center AIDS Cohort Study (MACS) with centers (Principal Investigators) at The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (Joseph B. Margolick, Lisa P. Jacobson), Howard Brown Health Center, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University, and Cook County Bureau of Health Services (John P. Phair, Steven M. Wolinsky), University of California, Los Angeles (Roger Detels), and University of Pittsburgh (Charles R. Rinaldo). The MACS is funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, with additional supplemental funding from the National Cancer Institute. UO1-AI-35042, 5-MO1-RR-00052 (GCRC), UO1-AI-35043, UO1-AI-35039, UO1-AI-35040, UO1-AI-35041. Website located at <http://www.statepi.jhsph.edu/mac/mac.html>.

<sup>12</sup>AIDS stands for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome. The CD4 cutoff below which AIDS occurs varies between 200 and 350.

checks to insure that our results are not driven by these exclusions). After these exclusions, the remaining analytic sample consists of 1,719 unique individuals and 16,851 observations.

Summary statistics by individual are reported in Table 1. The first column presents statistics for the analytic sample.<sup>13</sup> 68% of sample subjects are white, 22% are black and about 9% are hispanic. Race variation in our sample is important since previous research has emphasized difficulties in recruiting blacks into clinical trials, which may reflect different costs associated with treatments or variation in expected health outcomes (Harris et al., 1996). About 86% of the sample received some secondary education or more and nearly a quarter (23%) attended graduate school. Consistent with previous research studying medication choice using the MACS data set, there is evidence of substantial variation in labor supply (Papageorge, 2016). 74% of the sample is observed working at least once and 68% of the sample is observed not working at least once.

Underscoring the seriousness of HIV infection, about 40% of the HIV+ subjects we observe at least once over the sample period die prior to the end of the sample period. However, product market innovation led to drastic changes for HIV+ men. The most striking example is the introduction of HAART in the mid-1990s, which was much more effective at improving underlying health compared to the treatments that preceded it. Conditional on surviving until the invention of HAART, 20% of subjects are observed dying. This understates the impact of HAART since the sample under study is an aging cohort, i.e., observed survival rates are much higher even when the cohort is older after HAART becomes available. Further, according to Table 1, about 83% of subjects are observed using a market product at least once. Moreover, nearly a quarter (24%) opt for early access by participating in a clinical trial at least once during the sample period, suggesting that patients are willing to try experimental products where quality is uncertain.

## 2.2 Consumer Demand

In this section, we study consumer demand in the maturing market for HIV drugs. We emphasize two key patterns in the data. First, consumers are willing to use drugs with side effects when drugs are also effective. Otherwise, they often avoid drugs altogether. Second, consumers participate in clinical trials when they are very sick and when existing technologies are of low quality. Once good technology comes available, willingness to experiment plunges. Together, these patterns in the data support two ideas that underlie our theoretical model developed in Section 3. First, product quality in the medical context is

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<sup>13</sup>For comparison, the third column reports statistics for a larger sample of 2,420 individuals, where we have not dropped observations due to missing data on any particular variable.

multi-dimensional. Second, experimentation is a rational choice to gain access to unavailable and possibly superior technology.

In conducting our preliminary analysis of consumer demand, we pay close attention to comparisons of behavior before and after the introduction of HAART. Since HAART marked a large innovation on earlier treatments, it induced strong and observable consumer responses that help to identify consumer preferences over medications. Summary statistics for subject-visit dyads are found in Table 2 for the full analytic sample (column [1]) and then separately for the pre and the post-HAART eras (columns [2] and [3], respectively). We split the sample by HAART era to illustrate substantial changes to choices and outcomes after HAART was introduced.

Perhaps the most striking example of the impact of HAART on consumers is through its effect on survival. In Figure 2, we plot the probability of dying between periods  $t$  and  $t + 1$  conditional on survival until  $t$ . Death rates are much higher prior to HAART introduction and despite a multitude of new treatments coming available. After HAART, death rates plunge, and continue to fall until 2007, as smaller innovations occur that make drugs incrementally more effective and less toxic. HAART introduction also affected immune system health, as measured by CD4 count. According to Table 2, average CD4 count among HIV+ men in our sample is 407 in the pre-HAART era, rising to 524 in the post-HAART era. In Figure 3(a), we plot average CD4 count over time for people on market drugs and no treatment for HIV. Over time, health for people taking no drugs remains fairly constant while health for individuals in a market drug rises.<sup>14</sup>

Given the impact of HAART on health, it is important to understand why many consumers did not use it. In Figure 4(a), we plot the proportion of HIV+ consumers using an HIV treatment. Notice that treatment consumption is about 50% in 1990 and actually falls prior to HAART introduction. This reflects that products available on the market are of fairly low quality. Still, if quality were uni-dimensional, even a low quality drug would be better than no drug at all. Moreover, even after HAART is invented, though there is a considerable rise in market product usage, there is a substantial proportion of HIV+ men not using treatment.

Treatment costs are one possible explanation. In Table 2, we see that treatment costs rise after HAART introduction, from about \$179 to \$327 for six months of treatment. In other words, even in the post-HAART era, costs are fairly low given that individual earnings average about \$37,000 per year. It is worth mentioning, moreover, that non-users of market drugs pay non-zero costs for drugs, perhaps spending more money on medication to fight

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<sup>14</sup>Notice that average age rises and labor supply and income decline after HAART, consistent with the fact that we observe an aging cohort, which is more likely to retire and report lower gross income over time.

opportunistic infections. In other words, the incremental out-of-pocket cost of effective HIV treatments does not appear sufficient to explain why some people avoid HIV treatments.

Another possibility is that drug quality is multi-dimensional in which case demand reflects a distaste for another feature of HIV drugs. Given data on physical ailments, we explore the possibility that consumer demand reveals a distaste for side effects. Interestingly, after HAART introduction, the proportion of individuals reporting physical ailments declines only slightly (45% to 41%). The small change reflects the net effect of two countervailing dynamics (Papageorge, 2016). HAART improved health on average, which lowered reported ailments attributable to symptoms of HIV. However, HAART also led to side effects among users, thereby increasing reports of ailments. The increase in side effects also reflects how use of HIV treatment rose with the introduction of HAART, from 45% to 76%. We also plot physical ailments over time in Figure 3(b). For non-users of HIV medications, ailments remain fairly steady. For users of HIV medications, ailments drop prior to HAART introduction and then rise after HAART, which is consistent with HAART being a highly effective drug with side effects. However, after 2001, ailments decline for individuals using HIV drugs. This reflects later improvements to medications, which lowered their side effects.

Further evidence in support of the idea that there are two important dimensions of quality that influence demand comes from market consumption by CD4 count, plotted in Figure 4(a). Sicker people are far more willing to take low effective medications despite side effects in the years before HAART. After HAART, notice a striking convergence in the proportion of men using medications, driven largely by healthy individuals going onto medication. Thus, the rise in consumption of HIV treatments after HAART was introduced suggests that patients are more likely to use drugs despite side effects if the utility cost of suffering ailments is offset by expected improvements to health. HAART was more effective than earlier drugs, which encouraged people to use it despite its side effects. This would explain the rapid rise in use of HIV treatments after HAART is introduced since individuals would be more willing to use drugs with side effects as long as drugs are effective at improving underlying health.

Another option for individuals in the product market we study is to join a clinical trial to gain early access to new products. Studying how individuals experiment with new drugs by joining a clinical trial further highlights how consumers respond to innovations in the market for HIV drugs. Trial participation over time and by health status is plotted in Figure 4(b). The figure reveals several dynamics. First, early trial participation is driven largely by individuals with low CD4 counts. This suggests that, as individuals become ill, they also become more willing to experiment with new products of uncertain qualities. Second, in the years just prior to HAART introduction, the drugs that comprise HAART, including protease inhibitors, marked a substantial improvement over drugs available on the market.

In those years, trial participation gave individuals early access to much better products. This relates to the idea of *beta testing* in markets where some consumers are willing to experiment with new products with high potential quality.

After HAART, notice that trial participation plunges after HAART is introduced as a market option. After HAART, there is a marked convergence by health status in the proportion of patients in trials. This means that once effective drugs are available, it is no longer possible to explain trial participation as an option for people who are very sick and therefore willing to face uncertainty in exchange for early access to a high-quality product. The reason is that individuals no longer need to participate in a clinical trial (and face therefore more uncertainty) to access good drugs. Together, these dynamics suggest that experimentation is a rational choice to gain access to new technology, especially in a maturing market where existing technology is not particularly good and patients are desperate for something better.

## 2.3 Market-Level Innovation

In the previous section, we studied how consumer responses to innovation shed light on consumer preferences. The patterns we have described until now are consistent with the idea that patients value their health, but are also concerned with side effects. Moreover, side effects seem to play a larger role in demand after survival is more or less assured. However, our preliminary evidence also suggests that preferences are not lexicographic. Patients seem willing to use toxic (or experimental) medication if the alternative is a large rise in the probability of dying, but patients will also forgo treatments with harsh side effects if drugs are not effective and the survival gains are limited.

In this section, we consider market-level innovation. To start, we illustrate innovation and diffusion of new products over time in the market for HIV treatment using a “heat map” displayed in Figure 5. For the approximately 90 drugs that were most used, we compute market share over our sample period.<sup>15</sup> Dark blue corresponds to low (or zero) market share and warmer colors indicate higher market shares. Several patterns emerge from this heat map. In earlier years, there are fewer treatments with high market shares. Over time, as many treatments are introduced, market shares drop, which suggests there is heterogeneity in preferences. In fact, low market shares are common in the years following HAART intro-

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<sup>15</sup>Appendix A is a data appendix that contains additional information on individual drugs and treatment combinations. Table S1 discusses which drugs or combinations are taken in clinical trials. Table S2 lists the chemical compositions of each drug. Table S3 shows how drugs are combined into treatments. Table S4 discusses “core treatments”, which are the main sets of treatments we observe, including the individual drugs they are composed of, whether or not they count as HAART and their entry and exit visits.

duction, when many new treatments were introduced, most of which were effective, but with strong side effects. After HAART, moreover, many drugs became obsolete, suggesting that new drugs are improvements on old ones.<sup>16</sup> As the market matured, some treatments were developed that were effective and offered fewer side effects, yielding a concentrated market once again.

Finally, we discuss whether the observed innovation path can be seen as a response to consumer preferences. In Figure 6, we plot drug qualities (effectiveness and side effects) for different periods of time. The figure illustrates the path of technology over time. After HAART's large innovation in efficacy in the mid-1990's, new drugs were less likely to be improvements on the efficacy dimension. Indeed, after the mid-1990's, average CD4 count rises to healthy levels, but stays below 600 (relative to 1000, which is roughly the average for HIV- people). This means that once products were developed that allowed patients to recover healthy (but not uninfected-level) CD4 counts, there is instead a rightward shift as innovations lead to reductions in side effects without noticeable improvements in efficacy. This rightward shift corresponds to changes in the relative importance of one dimension of taste over another. Consumer demand patterns suggest a preference for drugs with fewer side effects — especially when survival is less of a concern. The path of innovation seems to have followed this pattern. Therefore, preliminary empirical patterns provide support for the idea that innovation responds to consumer demand.

### 3 Model

This section describes a model of innovation in the market for HIV treatments. Products are multidimensional: they can improve health and increase lifespan, but have potential side effects, which affect survival and labor market outcomes. New products are developed in clinical trials and both the entry of new products and the exit of incumbent products are determined by an endogenous stochastic processes. Consistent with the nature of our data, we are more detailed in our treatment of the demand side. Individuals maximize lifetime utility by choosing an HIV medical treatment. Consumers can choose a product that is available on the market, opt for no treatment at all or experiment with a new treatment by participating in a clinical trial. All treatments on the market cost the same to the consumer. In making decisions, consumers face several sources of uncertainty caused by individual or aggregate choices. First, they are uncertain about current-period outcomes, including their income and side effects. Second, consumers are uncertain about the evolution of other

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<sup>16</sup>An exception is AZT, which remained a standard component of HAART.

individual-specific state variables, notably health and survival. Finally, they face uncertainty over the evolution of the product market since new treatments may enter the market and some incumbent treatments may drop out.

In describing the model, we begin with a summary of the timing within a period (Section 3.1). Second, we discuss the supply of treatment, including entry and exit of new products from the market (Section 3.2). Third, we specify consumer demand for treatment, including choice sets, utility and individual state-to-state transitions (Section 3.3).

### 3.1 Summary and Timing within a Period

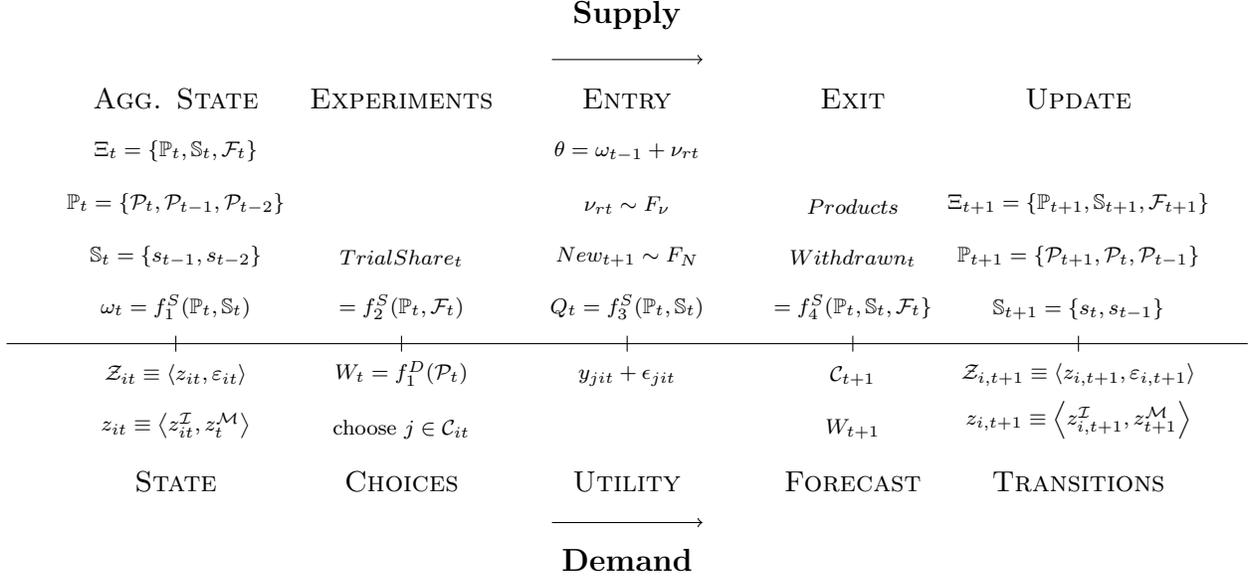
The timing of the model within a period proceeds as follows, where we begin with the aggregate state. In period  $t$ , the aggregate state is denoted  $\Xi_t$  and consists of current and previous individual product characteristics  $\mathbb{P}_t$ , previous market shares  $\mathbb{S}_t$  and the distribution of current-period consumer characteristics  $\mathcal{F}_t$ . Together, these factors determine the average state of technology  $\omega_t$  along with entry (the quantity and qualities of new products) and exit of products that are withdrawn from the market prior to the start of the following period. Current period market shares along with the qualities of new products and the distribution of consumer characteristics constitute the one-period-ahead aggregate state.

Upon entering period  $t$ , the consumer observes his state vector  $\mathcal{Z}_{it}$ , along with his choice set  $\mathcal{C}_t$ . His state vector consists of individual-level components  $z_{it}^I$  (e.g., health) along with aggregate market components  $z_{it}^M$  that the consumer uses to forecast the future. When choosing among products, he takes account of how each choice affects current outcomes (e.g., side effects, income) and future states (e.g., health, labor participation). He also forecasts the characteristics of future products, which may affect the relative payoffs to his current choice. The consumer's choice of treatment maximizes his expected discounted lifetime utility.<sup>17</sup> Once a consumer makes a choice, outcome variables are realized and he receives his flow utility  $y_{jit}$ . Thereafter, their state variables update and the consumer enters the next period.

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<sup>17</sup>Given the large number of individual products in the market, consumers are assumed to have limited information about individual product characteristics. As will be explained below, products are clustered into categories (using a  $k$ -means algorithm) and the consumer knows the weighted average of qualities in each cluster  $W_t$ , where the weights are the probability of being assigned a specific treatment.

**Figure 1:** Timing



## 3.2 Supply

We specify a reduced-form model of supply that we use to capture the evolution of product characteristics. We do not model firm behavior, strategic pricing and R&D decisions.<sup>18</sup> Entry and exit occur at the end of the period immediately before the next period begins. We start by describing the aggregate state at the beginning of period  $t$ , followed by entry and exit.

### 3.2.1 The Aggregate State

The aggregate state is denoted  $\Xi_t$  and summarizes market-level quantities at period  $t$ . The state contains current and previous product qualities and market shares along with the distribution of consumer characteristics in the market, each described below.

Product Characteristics ( $\mathbb{P}_t$ ): The aggregate state contains a set  $\mathbb{P}_t$  of characteristics of current and previous products up to two periods into the past:

$$\mathbb{P}_t = \{\mathcal{P}_t, \mathcal{P}_{t-1}, \mathcal{P}_{t-2}\}$$

where  $\mathcal{P}_t$  denotes the characteristics of products available at  $t$ .

<sup>18</sup>Modeling the supply side in this way obviously limits the sorts of counterfactuals we can perform. For example, our model would be ill-equipped to evaluate policies affecting, for example, market structure.

Market Shares ( $\mathbb{S}_t$ ): The aggregate state also contains a set of previous shares going back in time two periods:

$$\mathbb{S}_t = \{s_{t-1}, s_{t-2}\}$$

where  $s_{t-1}$  denotes a set containing the shares of products available at  $t - 1$ .

Consumer Characteristics ( $\mathcal{F}_t$ ): Finally, the current distribution of consumer characteristics  $\mathcal{F}_t$  is also contained in the aggregate state. The initial distribution of consumer characteristics in the test market is denoted  $\mathcal{F}_0$ .<sup>19</sup> Thus, the aggregate state is given by:

$$\Xi_t = \{\mathbb{P}_t, \mathbb{S}_t, \mathcal{F}_t\}$$

### 3.2.2 Entry

In each period, entry of new products occurs according to a reference point for innovation or *centroid*, denoted  $\omega_{t-1}$ , a distribution of characteristics of new products  $F_{\theta|\omega_{t-1}}$  and a distribution of number of new products  $F_N$ .

Centroid ( $\omega_t$ ): At any period  $t$ , the centroid for innovation is a weighted average among users of products available last period, given by:

$$\begin{aligned} \omega_t &= f_1^S(\mathbb{S}_t, \mathbb{P}_t) \\ &= \sum_{k \in \mathcal{P}_{t-1}} s_{kt-1} \theta_k \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

where  $\theta_k$  are the characteristics of product  $k$  and  $s_{kt-1}$  is the ratio of individuals who consume treatment  $k$  relative to the number of individuals who consume a treatment. If nobody uses a treatment the base for innovation remains the same, i.e.  $\omega_t = \omega_{t-1}$ .

Characteristics of New Products ( $F_{\theta|\omega_t}$ ): Every new product  $r$  introduced at  $t$ , characterized by  $\theta_{rt}$ , is an innovation around the centroid of the previous period:

$$\theta_{rt} = \omega_{t-1} + \nu_{rt} \tag{2}$$

where  $\nu_{rt}$  represents a vector of disturbances (innovations) around the current technology,

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<sup>19</sup>The taste market is the market based on which innovation is undertaken.

drawn from  $F_\nu$ , a stationary distribution of innovations.  $F_\nu$  embodies the outcomes of R&D efforts made by firms and the government. We do not specify a parametric form for  $F_\nu$ . As will be explained in Section 4,  $F_\nu$  is a non-parametric distribution estimated off of the history of observed innovations around the centroid. Clearly,  $F_\nu$  and  $\omega_{t-1}$  determine  $F_{\theta|\omega_{t-1}}$ .

Number of New Products ( $F_N$ ): The number of new products at any period is equivalent to the number of draws to be taken from  $F_{\theta|\omega_{t-1}}$ . In the data, we observe that the number of new products introduced in the market varies across time. Moreover, the number of products seems to be related to the size of previous discoveries as well as to the share of individuals joining a trial. We capture these facts in our specification of  $F_N$ . At the end of any period, a number  $New_{t+1}$  of new products enters the market. This number follows a negative binomial process that permits dispersion in the mean:

$$\begin{aligned}
New_{t+1} |_{\mu^*} &\sim Poisson(\mu_t^*) \\
\mu_{t+1}^* &\sim Gamma(1/\alpha^N, \alpha^N \mu_t) \\
\mu_{t+1} &= \exp(\beta_0^N + \beta_1^N Q_t + \beta_2^N TrialsShare_t) \\
\ln \alpha^N &= \alpha_0^N + \alpha_1^N Q_t
\end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

The binomial model is conditioned on two covariates. First, the quality of previous innovations, denoted  $Q_t$ , captures the relatively higher number of new products that follow the appearance of better innovations. Second, the share of individuals who consume a trial product, endogenously given by the characteristics of the test market as  $TrialsShare_t = f_2^S(\mathbb{P}_t, \mathcal{F}_t)$ , captures the fact that more experiments can be conducted if more consumers participate in clinical trials.

The quality of previous innovations measures the distance between the previous period's new products and the previous period's centroid. The relative change is computed for each of the two dimensions of product characteristics (health,  $h$ , and lack of ailments,  $x$ ) and is scaled by the maximum change observed over the sample period.<sup>20</sup> It is computed as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
Q_t &= f_3^S(\mathbb{S}_t, \mathbb{P}_t) \\
&= \sum_{r \in \{h, x\}} \frac{\max_{\theta^r \text{ new at } t} \{\theta^r - \omega_{t-1}^r\}}{\max_{\theta^r \text{ new at } \tau, \forall \tau} \{\theta^r - \omega_{\tau-1}^r\}}
\end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

<sup>20</sup>Note that in order to compute  $Q_{t-1}$  we need the scaling quantities given by

$$\max_{\theta^r \text{ new at } \tau, \forall \tau} \{\theta^r - \omega_{\tau-1}^r\} \tag{4}$$

for  $r \in \{h, x\}$  which are estimated consistently by their data counterparts.

The specifications of  $\omega_t$ ,  $F_{\theta|\omega_{t-1}}$ , and  $F_N$  render the path of innovation endogenous. Individual choices, summarized by market shares, affect the centroid in equation (1). By affecting  $\omega_t$ , market shares affect the characteristics of every new product  $\theta$  in equation (2). Intuitively, treatments that keep patients alive and those associated with fewer ailments will capture larger shares of the market and firms will innovate on drugs with larger market shares. Additionally, individuals' choices affect the path of innovation through their effect on the distribution of number of new products.

### 3.2.3 Exit

Incumbent drugs may exit the market. Exit happens at two different levels: *exit for switchers* and *overall exit*. *Exit for switchers* happens when the product is no longer available for individuals who have yet to use it, but is still available for those who were consuming the product in the prior period. *Overall exit* happens when the product is no longer available to any consumer. Exit happens according to the following rules that aim to reconcile empirical observations and theory—where expected shares must be positive due to model assumptions on the taste shocks of consumers.<sup>21</sup>

1. If the ratio of people switching to product  $k$  relative to the number of people switching falls below  $\tilde{\sigma}_1$  during three consecutive periods, the product is withdrawn from the market.  $\tilde{\sigma}_1$  is chosen as the minimum conditional share observed in the data and the number 3 is chosen to smooth the market spells of products.
2. If the ratio of people consuming product  $k$ , either by staying or switching, relative to the number of people consuming a market product falls below  $\tilde{\sigma}_2$  during two consecutive periods, the product is withdrawn from the market.  $\tilde{\sigma}_2$  is chosen as the minimum conditional share observed in the data and the number 2 is chosen to smooth the market spells of products.

The exit criteria can be written in terms of the aggregate state of the problem as

$$ProductsWithdrawn_{t+1} = f_4^S(\mathbb{S}_t, \mathbb{P}_t, \mathcal{F}_t)$$

### 3.2.4 The Evolution of the Aggregate State

Given the current aggregate state  $\Xi_t$  and the exogenous distribution of innovations, aggregate choices induce a new distribution of consumer characteristics  $\mathcal{F}_{t+1}$ . Through the entry and

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<sup>21</sup>These shocks will be discussed in the demand portion of the model.

exit mechanisms, a new set of available products comes available and is denoted  $\mathcal{P}_{t+1}$ , which can be used to form  $\mathbb{P}_{t+1}$ . Finally, consumer choices can be summarized into market shares  $\mathcal{S}_t$ , which can be used to form  $\mathbb{S}_{t+1}$ . Thus, we have all the components of one-period-ahead aggregate state  $\Xi_{t+1}$ . We now turn to consumer demand.

### 3.3 Demand

The individual chooses medical treatment to maximize expected discounted lifetime utility. In making decisions, he observes his current state which includes individual-specific variables, such as health, along with market-level variables, such as the current state of medical technology. Individuals use market-level variables to form expectations over the future path of innovation. In specifying the individual's problem, we discuss state variables, the choice set, flow utility and stochastic processes governing outcomes and state-to-state transition probabilities. Next, we specify the value function.

#### 3.3.1 State Variables

The state for individual  $i$  at period  $t$  is denoted  $\mathcal{Z}_{it}$ , where

$$\mathcal{Z}_{it} \equiv \langle z_{it}, \varepsilon_{it} \rangle \quad (6)$$

$z_{it}$  is a set of state variables that is further sub-divided into a set of individual-specific variables, denoted  $z_{it}^{\mathcal{I}}$ , and a set of aggregate variables denoted  $z_t^{\mathcal{M}}$ :

$$z_{it} \equiv \langle z_{it}^{\mathcal{I}}, z_t^{\mathcal{M}} \rangle \quad (7)$$

The individual-specific state variables,  $z_{it}^{\mathcal{I}}$ , are

$$\begin{aligned} b_i & : \text{ a set of race indicators} \\ edu_i & : \text{ a set of education indicators} \\ h_{it-1} \in \mathbb{R}_+ & : \text{ health at the start of period } t \\ a_{it-1} \in \{25, 25.5, \dots\} & : \text{ age at the start of period } t \\ l_{it} \in \{0, 1\} & : \text{ working during period } t \\ q_{it-1} = \{q_{it-1}^x, q_{it-1}^h\} \in \mathbb{R}^2 & : \text{ characteristics of product consumed last period} \\ \eta_i & : \text{ person-specific income characteristic} \end{aligned}$$

The individual can be either white, black or Hispanic. He belongs to one of four mutually exclusive educational categories: high school, some college, college, and more than college.

His health, measured by CD4 count, is a continuous positive number.<sup>22</sup> His age is measured in half-year increments, corresponding to the frequency of MACS data collection.  $l_{it}$  indicates whether he will work during period  $t$ .

Each HIV treatment has two characteristics: its effectiveness at raising CD4 count, which we denote  $\theta^h$ , and its propensity to cause side effects, denoted  $\theta^x$ . We collect these into a vector denoted  $\theta \in \mathbb{R}^2$ . If the individual consumed a market product in the prior period, the characteristics of that product, denoted  $q_{it-1}$ , are part of his current state space. Finally, all elements of  $z_{it}^I$  are observed to the econometrician except  $\eta_i$ , which is an exogenous person-specific characteristic that affects the income process and is described below. Individuals also observe a vector of choice-specific additive utility disturbances  $\varepsilon_{it}$ , which are unobserved to the econometrician and assumed independent across time, individuals and choices. Besides individual-specific variables,  $z_{it}$  contains aggregate level components, collected in  $z_t^M$ , which individuals use to forecast the evolution of the market.  $z_t^M$  will be described further in Section 3.3.5.

### 3.3.2 Choices

At each period  $t$  the individual chooses whether or not to use medication. If he opts for medication, he may choose the same product he consumed in the last period or he may choose from the set of other treatments that are currently available on the market. Alternatively, he may choose a trial treatment. The individual faces uncertainty about the quality of both market and trial treatments.

We begin with uncertainty over market treatments. The individual learns about the quality of a product immediately after using it. Hence, if he chooses the same market treatment he consumed in the prior period, he faces no uncertainty regarding its characteristics.<sup>23</sup> Alternatively, if he decides to try a different market drug, his alternative is to choose one among several groups or *clusters* of drugs with similar qualities. The agent is then randomly assigned a drug within the cluster he selected.

Formally, at every period  $t$  there is a set of market products  $\mathcal{P}_t$  clustered in several groups collected in  $\mathcal{G}_t$ .  $\mathcal{G}_t$  denotes both the collection of clusters available at  $t$  and the cardinality of the collection. When individual  $i$  decides to consume a market treatment that is different from the one he consumed in the prior period, he must choose from a cluster  $g_t \in \mathcal{G}_t$ . By selecting group  $g_t$  he chooses a gamble among all products in group  $g_t$ . The

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<sup>22</sup>CD4 ranges from 0 to 2915 in our analytic sample with a median of 448. Healthy CD4 counts are those above 500 units per mm<sup>3</sup> and typically range between 500 and 1,500.

<sup>23</sup>As discussed above, his state space includes the characteristics of the drug consumed in the prior period  $q_{it-1}$ .

distribution of products within the group is given by weights that are a function of the treatment characteristics and the number of products in the group. The estimation of these weights is explained below. The moments of the within cluster distribution are generated by the products in the cluster and their weights. However, for tractability we assume that agents do not observe the cluster components and instead they only observe the first two moments of the within cluster distributions and that these are sufficient to describe the distribution. These moments form the set of characteristics of groups of products available at time  $t$ ,  $W_t = f_1^D(\mathcal{P}_t)$ .

Our clustering process is a device to make the model tractable and estimation feasible by reducing the state space significantly while still allowing individuals to choose among different options in the market.<sup>24</sup> In order to avoid issues emerging from differences in scales, when using our clustering algorithm, we assume that clustering occurs with respect to scaled product characteristics denoted  $\tilde{\theta} \in [-1, 1] \times [-1, 1]$ .<sup>25</sup> Then we obtain product groups at  $t$  by solving a  $k$ -means algorithm that approximates the solution of the following objective function<sup>26</sup>

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{1\{k \in g\}_{k \in \mathcal{P}_t} | \mathcal{G}_t} & \sum_{g=1}^{\mathcal{G}_t} \sum_{k \in \mathcal{P}_t} 1\{k \in g\} \left\| \tilde{\theta}_k - \tilde{\theta}_k^c \right\|^2 \\ \text{s.t.} & \sum_{g \in \mathcal{G}_t} 1\{k \in g\} = 1 \text{ for all } k \in \mathcal{P}_t \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

where the centroid of cluster  $k$ ,  $\tilde{\theta}_k^c$ , is defined as

$$\tilde{\theta}_k^c = \frac{\sum_{k \in \mathcal{P}_t} 1\{k \in g\} \tilde{\theta}_k}{\sum_{k \in \mathcal{P}_t} 1\{k \in g\}} \quad (9)$$

The algorithm is explained in detail in Appendix B. At any given period we set the maximum value of  $\mathcal{G}_t$  at  $\mathcal{G}^{\max}$  so that the individual knows how many groups will be available every period.  $\mathcal{G}^{\max}$  is chosen so that there is a non negligible number of consumers choosing each group in the data. We set  $\mathcal{G}^{\max} = 3$ .

We do not model the variation of within cluster assignment endogenously. Instead, we develop the concept of within cluster weights as functions of products's characteristics.

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<sup>24</sup>This approach is close to reality if individuals only observe product labels and do not know their characteristics beyond the fact that groups of product labels are associated to a certain mean and variance of characteristics.

<sup>25</sup>The transformation is explained in Appendix B

<sup>26</sup>See Duda and Hart (1973) and Andrew W. Moore's *K-means and Hierarchical Clustering* tutorial at <http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~awm/tutorials.html>.

Weights are estimated in the following fashion:

1. We compute a nonlinear regression of within cluster shares on treatment characteristics:

$$s_{k|g_t} = \exp(X_{k,t}^w \beta^w) + \epsilon_{k|g_t}^w \quad (10)$$

where  $X_{k,t}^w$  includes a constant term, the ranking (within its cluster) of the characteristics of the product, the number of members in the cluster, whether the product is new, and several interactions.

2. We obtain predicted within cluster shares  $\hat{s}_{k|g_t}$  and compute the weight of product  $k$  in cluster  $g_t$  as

$$\tilde{s}_{k|g_t} = \frac{\hat{s}_{k|g_t}}{\sum_{r \in g_t} \hat{s}_{r|g_t}} \quad (11)$$

If the individual chooses neither to try a cluster nor to stay in his previous treatment, he may instead join a clinical trial to get an experimental treatment. Trial product characteristics are unknown. However, he knows that innovation occurs in trials around the centroid  $\omega_t$ .<sup>27</sup> Therefore, he knows that the product characteristic of trial treatments are distributed according to  $F_{\theta|\omega_t}$ , which was introduced as the distribution of new product characteristics in the supply section above. A key difference between consuming group  $g_t$  and the trial treatment is that once the individual chooses a group and a treatment is assigned to him, he has the chance of choosing that treatment with certainty the next period.

Having described each option, we now formally specify the choice set. Let  $d_{jit}$  be the choice indicator that takes the value of one if agent  $i$  in period  $t$  chooses medical treatment  $j$  in the choice set  $\mathcal{C}_{it}$ . The choice set is time-specific because the characteristics of available products evolve as new products enter the market and incumbent products exit. The choice set is also individual specific since individuals who chose a market treatment in the prior period may choose that treatment again. If the individual did not choose a market treatment

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<sup>27</sup>One way to think about this point is that consumers entering a trial see  $\omega_t$  as the quality of a placebo drug administered in a trial. This would make sense in the context of HIV since new drugs were not tested against no drug at all, but were instead tested against “current best practices” (see for example Ickovics and Meisler (1997)).

in the prior period his choice set is:

$$\mathcal{C}_{it} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{No Treatment} \\ 1 & \text{Cluster } g_t = 1 \\ 2 & \text{Cluster } g_t = 2 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ \mathcal{G}^{max} & \text{Cluster } g_t = \mathcal{G}^{max} \\ \mathcal{G}^{max} + 1 & \text{Trial} \end{cases} \quad (12)$$

If the individual chose a market treatment in the prior period his choice set  $\mathcal{C}_{it}$  is augmented by one alternative to include the possibility of consuming his previous period treatment with certainty about its characteristics.

### 3.3.3 Utility

Next, we specify the flow utility function to capture how the individual's product choices are driven by the effects of each treatment choice on health, ailments, income, out-of-pocket payments, and non pecuniary benefits. For choice  $j \in \mathcal{C}_{it}$  and state  $z_{it}$ , the utility at period  $t$  for individual  $i$  is a function of his health, ailments, and net income given by

$$y_{jit} + \varepsilon_{jit} = \alpha_{jit}(z_{it}) + \alpha_m(m_{jit} - o_{jit}) + \alpha_x x_{jit} + \alpha_{xp} x_{jit}(1 - d_{0it}) + \varepsilon_{jit} \quad (13)$$

where  $m_{jit}$  is gross income,  $o_{jit}$  are out-of-pocket payments,  $x_{jit}$  is an indicator for whether the individual does not suffer ailments,  $d_{0it}$  is the indicator of whether he chooses not to consume a treatment, and  $\varepsilon_{jit}$  are unobserved choice-specific taste shocks. The interaction of the no-ailments indicator and the treatment choice indicator is used to capture a distaste for side effects, which are ailments arising from treatment consumption.

In equation (13),  $\alpha_{jit}(z_{it})$  are choice-specific preference parameters that depend on observables. They are defined as

$$\alpha_{jit}(z_{it}) \equiv \alpha'_{jb} b_i + \alpha_{ja} a_{it-1} + \alpha_{jh} h_{it-1} \quad (14)$$

We assume that consumer preferences over clusters are fully captured by cluster characteristics. Therefore, we assume parameters  $\alpha'_{jb}$ ,  $\alpha_{ja}$ , and  $\alpha_{jh}$  to be constant across clusters. This is the characteristics approach commonly used in structural models of demand which explains consumer choices as a function of product qualities. In contrast, participating in a clinical trial may offer differential benefits related to the psychological costs (or benefits) from being part of an experiment. We also allow the choice of remaining in the same product to have differential non pecuniary benefits in order to capture factors, such as switching costs

and a preference for certainty, which explain why consumers may continue using a product they have used before even as better products enter the market. Finally, for identification purposes we normalize the non pecuniary benefits from not consuming a treatment to zero (Magnac and Thesmar, 2002; Arcidiacono and Miller, 2015).

### 3.3.4 Outcomes and Transitions

In this section, we specify the stochastic processes governing state variables in  $z_{it}$  as well as the outcome variables: income, out-of-pocket payments, ailments, and survival.

Income: Gross income is a function of today's state,  $z_{it}$ , and ailments,  $x_{jit}$ . It is given by

$$m_{jit} = X_{jit}^m \Gamma^m + \eta_i + \epsilon_{it}^m \quad (15)$$

where  $X_{jit}^m = [1, h_{it-1}, \dots, h_{it-1}^7, a_{it-1}, a_{it-1}^2, b_i, edu_i, l_{it}, x_{jit}]$ . Gross income does not include product cost, which is accounted for in the payments equation below. Equation (15) is estimated using random effects and individual-specific income characteristics are estimated consistently as

$$\hat{\eta}_i = \sum_t \sum_j d_{jit} (m_{jit} - X_{jit}^m \hat{\Gamma}^m)$$

Individuals observe the income iid shocks  $\epsilon_{it}^m$  before making their choice.

Payments: Out-of-pocket payments are censored at zero. They are given by the following tobit specification

$$o_{jit} = o(X_{jit}^o, \epsilon_{it}^o; \Gamma^o) \quad (16)$$

where  $X_{jit}^o = [1, h_{it-1}, \dots, h_{it-1}^6, a_{it-1}, a_{it-1}^2, b_i, edu_i, \{d_{jit}\}_{j=0}^5, l_{it}, x_{jit}]$  and  $\epsilon_{it}^o$  is the error term in the underlying equation. Since we do not directly observe prices, and in order to simplify the problem, we assume a constant cost of participating in a trial as well as a constant cost of consuming a market product.<sup>28</sup>

Labor Supply: We do not model labor supply explicitly as a choice as it is not the main purpose of this paper. However, labor supply may be affected by treatment choices, e.g., through health status and physical ailments. Moreover, labor supply also affects income and therefore utility. To capture this, we treat labor supply as a state variable that individuals know at the beginning of the period before making their treatment decision. Individuals

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<sup>28</sup>End-users customarily pay a standardized deductible that is a fraction of the brochure price of the drug paid by the insurance company. Median out-of-pocket drug costs are about \$300 every six months for a regime of drugs that would cost the insurance company between \$5,000 and \$15,000.

draw their labor market participation from the distribution characterized by

$$\Pr[l_{it} = 1|X_{it}^l] = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(X_{it}^l \Gamma^l)} \quad (17)$$

where  $X_{it}^l = [1, l_{it-1}, h_{it-1}, \dots, h_{it-1}^4, a_{it-1}, a_{it-1}^2, b_i, edu_i]$ .

Physical Ailments: First, define a mapping from the choice to the characteristics of the treatment

$$\theta(d_{jit}) = \{\theta^x(d_{jit}), \theta^h(d_{jit})\} \quad (18)$$

where  $\theta(d_{jit}) = q_{it-1}$  if the individual consumes his prior-period market treatment.  $\theta(d_{jit})$  is a stochastic variable is the individual chooses a cluster or if he joins a trial.

A production function transforms drug characteristics and health into ailments. Let  $x_{jit}$  be an indicator that takes the value of 1 if the individual does not suffer ailments in  $t$  after choosing alternative  $j \in \mathcal{C}_{it}$ . The probability of not having physical ailments for individual  $i$  is modeled as:

$$\Pr[x_{jit} = 1|\cdot] = \frac{\exp(\sum_{m=0}^5 \gamma_m^x h_{it-1}^m + \theta^x(d_{jit}))}{1 + \exp(\cdot)} \quad (19)$$

Health: CD4 count is our objective measure of health. Like ailments, health at the beginning of period  $t + 1$  is a function of previous health and drug characteristics. The production function of health is specified as:

$$h_{jit} = \sum_{m=0}^5 \gamma_m^h h_{it-1}^m + \theta^h(d_{jit}) + \epsilon_{it}^h \quad (20)$$

The distribution of the health disturbance is estimated non-parametrically using the residuals of the health production function. We assume that  $\mathbb{E}[\epsilon_{it}^h|\cdot] = 0$ , where the expectation is conditional on the vector of regressors of the health production function.<sup>29</sup>

Survival: At the end of any period  $t$  individuals may survive into the next, denoted by  $S_{it+1} = 1$ , with the following probability

$$D_{it+1}(z_{it+1}) \equiv \Pr[S_{it+1} = 1|z_{it+1}] = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(X_{it}^d \Gamma^d)} \quad (21)$$

where  $X_{it}^d = [1, h_{jit}, \dots, h_{jit}^5, a_{it}, a_{it}^2, b_i, edu_i, x_{jit}]$ .

<sup>29</sup>Here, it is important to point out that each individual drug in our sample has a set of characteristics that are observed by the econometrician. The agent only observes cluster attributes. However, these are constructed from individual-level data.

### 3.3.5 Consumer Information and Aggregate State Forecasts

Consumers must form expectations not only about the evolution of their individual-level state variables, but also about the characteristics of future choice sets. The following example underscores the importance of this type of forecast in explaining consumer choices: a relatively healthy consumer may avoid choosing from a group of effective drugs with strong side effects in the current period if he expects effective drugs with fewer side effects to emerge soon; in contrast, a sick consumer may not want to avoid medication despite side effects if he fears that he may not survive until better drugs are introduced.

We assume that consumers have rational expectations, but they do not observe the entire aggregate state  $\Xi_t$ . Instead, they observe a reduced aggregate state  $z_t^{\mathcal{M}}$ , which is a mapping from  $\Xi_t$ , and integrate over what they do not observe—these unobserved objects may be past, present and future. The aggregate portion of the individual’s state is given by

$$z_t^{\mathcal{M}} \equiv \langle \omega_t, W_t, \mathcal{F}_t \rangle \quad (22)$$

The individual observes the centroid for innovation  $\omega_t$ , described in Section 3.2, which determines the expected characteristics of trial products. His information set also contains the characteristics  $W_t$  of the clusters of products he observes, described in Section 3.3. Finally, he observes the current distribution of consumer characteristics  $\mathcal{F}_t$ .

### 3.3.6 The Value Function

We define the value function conditional on choice  $j \in \mathcal{C}_{it}$ , net of taste shocks, for individual  $i$  at time  $t$  as follows:

$$v_{jit}(z_{it}) = \mathbb{E} \left[ y_{jit} + \beta \left[ D_{it+1}(z_{it+1}) \max_{c \in \mathcal{C}_{it+1}} \{v_{cit+1}(z_{it+1}) + \varepsilon_{cit+1}\} \right] \middle| z_{it}, j \right] \quad (23)$$

Expectations are taken over product characteristics affecting the flow utility and the evolution of both observed and unobserved state variables. Expectations over the evolution of unobserved state variables are independent conditional on the current set of state variables. Therefore, we can rewrite equation (23) as

$$v_{jit}(z_{it}) = \mathbb{E}_y[y_{jit}|z_{it}] + \beta \mathbb{E}_z \left[ D_{it+1}(z_{it+1}) \mathbb{E}_\epsilon \left[ \max_{c \in \mathcal{C}_{it+1}} \{v_{cit+1}(z_{it+1}) + \varepsilon_{cit+1}\} \right] \middle| z_{it}, j \right] \quad (24)$$

The first expectations operator,  $\mathbb{E}_y$ , denotes expectations over outcomes that affect flow utility, including income and physical ailments. The second operator,  $\mathbb{E}_z$ , denotes expectations

over the evolution of observed state variables  $z_{it}$ , including health and the mapping from the aggregate state that he observes,  $z_t^M$ . The third operator,  $\mathbb{E}_\epsilon$ , denotes expectations taken over the joint distribution of unobserved choice-specific taste shifters.

## 4 Estimation

In this section, we describe how we estimate parameters of the model specified in Section 3 using a GMM estimator. A more extensive treatment of the estimation procedure, including a more detailed algorithm, is found in Appendix B. In Section 4.1, we provide an overview of the estimation procedure, summarizing the algorithm. The first eight steps can be seen as a “first stage”, where quantities are computed that do not change as utility parameters change. These quantities are computed a single time and are then used to construct moments used in GMM estimation of utility parameters, described in the final step of the algorithm. In Section 4.2, we provide further details on the GMM estimator, describing the theoretical moment conditions and their sample analogs. We also emphasize unique features of our forward simulation procedure.

### 4.1 Overview

Our estimation procedure can be summarized in the following steps.

1. *Products as treatments.* Our estimation starts with the definition of products. We define a product as a combination of single-product components. Examples of products are AZT or the combination of AZT+3TC+Saquinavir.
2. *Outcome equations.* We estimate processes for income, out-of-pocket payment, labor supply and survival. Health and no-ailments equations will be estimated in the next step (see equations (15), (16), (17), and (21)).
3. *Product characteristics.* Given products defined in step 1, we estimate product characteristics (see equations (19) and (20)).<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>30</sup>As described in the model, individuals make treatment decisions based on cluster attributes, which are probabilities of health and side effects associated with each cluster governed by equations (19) and (20). However, their realized outcome will depend on the individual drug they are randomly assigned to from the cluster. Thus, we must also estimate drug-specific characteristics, which are version of equations (19) and (20), but for each treatment rather than for each cluster. The treatment specific equations are equations (29) and (30) in Appendix B).

4. *Clusters.* Using the estimated product characteristics in step 3, we use a k-means algorithm to obtain clusters of products for every period (see equation (8)). Then, using the characteristics of the products in each cluster, we obtain within clusters weights as predictions from non-linear regressions of within cluster shares on covariates (see equations (10) and (11)). Finally, using the within cluster weights we compute cluster characteristics—mean and variance matrix.
5. *Centroid.* Using product characteristics from step 3, we back out innovation centroids for every period (see equation (1)).
6. *Distribution of innovations.* Every new product is modeled as a draw around the centroid (see equation (2)). Hence, for every new product at a given period we compute the realized innovation around the centroid as the residual from subtracting the centroid (step 5) from the product characteristic (step 3). Using the realized innovations we non-parametrically estimate the stationary distribution of innovations,  $F_v$ .
7. *Distribution of number of draws.* Using data regarding the amount of new products per period we estimate the distribution of number of new products (see equations (3) and (5)).
8. *Conditional choice probabilities (CCPs).* Using cluster characteristic from step 4, centroids from step 5 and other aggregate and individual-specific state variables we estimate flexible parametric CCPs (see Appendix B).
9. *Structural utility parameters.* We follow Hotz et al. (1994) and use forward simulation to generate choice and technology paths as well as future individual states that will serve as inputs to the simulated continuation value. In our forward simulation we use the estimated CCPs (step 8), the distribution of number of draws (step 7) and the distribution of innovations (step 6) as well other estimated processes (step 2 through step 5). Finally, we implement a GMM estimator using a moment condition which is a function of the forward simulated data, CCPs, and utility parameters.

## 4.2 Moment Condition

We use GMM to estimate utility parameters. Our moment conditions appeal to well-known results following from our assumption that the taste shocks  $\varepsilon_{jit}$  are iid Extreme Value Type I distributed (see for example Hotz and Miller (1993)). The moment conditions rely on differences between alternative representations of the difference in conditional value functions  $v_{jit}(z_{it}) - v_{oit}(z_{it})$ . Let  $J = 6$  be the maximum possible cardinality of the individual’s choice

set, let  $p_{jit}(z_{it})$  be the probability that individual  $i$  chooses option  $j$  at time  $t$  conditional on his state  $z_{it}$ , and let  $w(z_{it})$  be a vector of instruments orthogonal to the difference between alternative representations. We can form the following moment conditions:

$$\mathbb{E} \left\{ w(z_{it}) \otimes \begin{bmatrix} \ln \left( \frac{p_{oit}(z_{it})}{p_{1it}(z_{it})} \right) + v_{1it}(z_{it}) - v_{oit}(z_{it}) \\ \vdots \\ \ln \left( \frac{p_{oit}(z_{it})}{p_{J-1it}(z_{it})} \right) + v_{J-1it}(z_{it}) - v_{oit}(z_{it}) \end{bmatrix} \right\} = 0. \quad (25)$$

The first representation of the difference in conditional value functions is the log odds ratio formed with current-period conditional choice probabilities. The second representation relies on the results in Proposition 1, which yields the conditional value function as a mapping of future conditional choice probabilities and utility parameters.

**Proposition 1.** *Let  $V(z_{it}, \varepsilon_{it})$  be the value function for individual  $i$  at period  $t$  who has a state given by  $z_{it}$  and  $\varepsilon_{it}$ . Define  $P_j^{o(s-1)}$  as the probability of surviving until period  $t+s-1$  conditional on the state at  $t$ , decision  $j$  at  $t$ , and optimal behavior, denoted  $d_i^o$ , up to some period  $T^* > t$ .<sup>31</sup> Define  $\psi_{kit}(z_{it}) \equiv \mathbb{E}_\varepsilon [\varepsilon_{kit} | d_{it}^o = k, z_{it}]$  as the expected value of the  $k$ th taste shock conditional on alternative  $k$  being optimal. Finally, let  $\gamma$  be the Euler constant. Then, the conditional value function can be written as*

$$\begin{aligned} v_{jit}(z_{it}) = & \mathbb{E}[y_{jit} | z_{it}] + \sum_{s=1}^{T^*} \beta^s P_j^{o(s-1)}(z_{it}) \times \\ & \mathbb{E}_z \left[ D_{it+s}(z_{it+s}) \sum_{k \in C_{t+s}} p_{kit+s}(z_{it+s}) [y_{kit+s}(z_{it+s}) + \psi_{kit+s}(z_{it+s})] \middle| z_{it}, d_{jit} = 1, S_{it+s-1} = 1, d_i^o \right] \\ & + \beta^{T^*+1} P_j^{o(T^*)}(z_{it}) \mathbb{E}_z [D_{it+T^*+1}(z_{it+T^*+1}) V(z_{it+T^*+1}, \varepsilon_{it+T^*+1}) | z_{it}, j, S_{it+T^*} = 1, d_i^o] \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

and

$$\psi_{kit}(z_{it}) = \gamma - \ln(p_{kit}(z_{it})) \quad (27)$$

*Proof:* see Appendix C

#### 4.2.1 Sample Analog and Forward Simulation

To form sample analogs of the moments in equation (25), we first substitute the theoretical log odds ratio using the estimated CCPs. Second, we use Proposition 1 to obtain differences

<sup>31</sup>Since any individual present at  $t$  has evidently survived until  $t$ ,  $P_j^{o(0)}(\cdot) \equiv 1$ . Recall that  $S_{it+s}$  is the survival indicator and  $D_{it+s}$  is the one-period-ahead probability of survival, defined in Section 3.3

in conditional value functions using forward simulation (Hotz et al., 1994). In our forward simulation procedure, for every individual  $i$  at time  $t$  facing choice set  $\mathcal{C}_{it}$ , we fix choice  $j$  and use the estimated stochastic processes governing outcomes and transition to simulate his state variables at  $t + 1$ . We then use the estimated parameters of the CCPs to simulate  $t + 1$  choices conditional on the new simulated state. We continue the same process until  $T^*$ , whose value is set high enough so that the product  $\beta^{T^*+1} P_j^{o(T^*)}(z_{it})$  approaches zero, eliminating further differences in conditional value functions beyond  $T^*$ .

Forward simulation is used in a variety of settings to compute conditional value functions. There is one feature of our estimation procedure that distinguishes our approach from prior literature. As was mentioned in Section 3, individuals are not only aware of the stochastic processes governing their individual state transitions, but also they are aware of the stochastic process that links aggregate behavior and innovation. Using the information contained in their state, consumers form expectations about future choice sets. This contrasts with setups where agents are either fully aware of future technologies or, alternatively, where they are fully unaware, in which case an innovation like HAART amounts to a regime change. Our forward simulation procedure explicitly incorporates how aggregate behavior affects individual expectations over future innovations.

For each observation (individual  $i$  at period  $t$ ), we first construct an artificial technological path by simulating aggregate behavior forward. In other words, we forward simulate the choices of all individuals in the sample at period  $t$ , and collect the technological path generated by their choices. Then, because individuals are atomistic, for each observation we can generate several sequences of future choices and payoffs, taking as given its observation-specific artificial technological path, to reduce individual simulation error.<sup>32</sup> There are two features from our forward simulation that we underscore. First, our conditional choice probabilities, insofar as they condition on  $z_t^M$ , capture the way in which individuals compute expectations. This guarantees that our method to obtain individuals' expectations by simulating future paths of the aggregate state  $\Xi_t$  generated from the simulated choices of individuals with limited information is accurate. Clearly, because we simulate the aggregate future path of  $\Xi_t$ , we can also obtain the simulated future path of  $z_t^M$ . Second, we simulate separate artificial technological paths for every observation. This serves two purposes. It maintains the assumption, needed for consistency of the estimator, that the sample draws from the moment conditions—the contribution from each observation—are independent from each other. Additionally, simulating a separate artificial technological path for every observation prevents simulation errors in the technological paths from propagating across all observations.

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<sup>32</sup>We generate 10 sequences per observation.

### 4.2.2 The Distribution of Innovations

The forward simulation of future choice sets relies on the distribution of innovations. In our framework, the characteristics of new products entering the market today determined by last period’s centroid and a draw from the distribution of innovations,  $F_\nu$ . This distribution, which we assume is stationary, provides the location of new products relative to the current centroid. To estimate the distribution of innovations we use all periods in the MACS data with relevant information on treatment consumed, health, and ailments (1986 to 2008). We then define centroids for innovation,  $\omega_t$ , given by equation (1). For each new product at  $t$ , characterized by  $\theta$ , we compute a realized innovation vector as

$$\nu^\theta = \theta - \omega_{t-1}$$

We do not impose that innovation vectors cannot be strictly negative. In other words, inferior products with lower quality in both dimensions (health and ailments) may be introduced if the non parametric distribution allocates mass to the the south-east quadrant of its domain. This is not at odds with what we observe in the data, and theoretical reasons why this may happen have been provided in the literature (Miller, 1988). Over the time span we observe there are 76 realizations from the innovations distribution which we use to obtain a nonparametric empirical distribution for  $\nu$ .

## 5 Parameter Estimates and Choice Dynamics

In this section, we discuss estimates of the structural model. We organize our discussion around the key factors driving choices. We introduce the distribution of innovations in Section 5.1. We discuss the utility function in Section 5.2 and describe outcomes and transitions in Section 5.3. Finally, in Section 5.4 we use the model to simulate choices over time, which allows us to assess model fit.

### 5.1 The Distributions of Innovations and New Products

In our model, every new product is an innovation about the centroid. How far new products land from the centroid is stochastically given by the distribution of innovations,  $F_\nu$ , that we estimate non parametrically. Figure 7 shows that  $F_\nu$  is bimodal and it does not appear to be well approximated by a standard parametric distribution. While one of the modes is located approximately at the status quo point  $(0, 0)$ , a second mode is located north of the first one

along the health axis. Since the probability distribution is not always decreasing as we move away from the centroid, the innovation process rather jumpy.

As shown in Table 3, the distribution of innovations has a positive mean in terms of health quality, but a mean in terms of no-ailments quality that is not statistically different from zero. In other words, new products are on average more efficacious but no better in terms of side effects. These results suggests that, if consumers were to choose products at random, on average the quality of products would improve over time in terms of health quality but would remain largely unchanged in terms of no-ailments quality. However, in our model the centroid is a mapping from consumer demand that does not happen at random. Since the centroid anchors the distribution of innovations, the characteristics of future products are more likely to be close to the characteristics of products with larger market shares, which shapes the path of innovation. In this sense, innovation is endogenous to consumer choices.

The process of innovation also depends on the magnitude of previous innovations and on participation in clinical trials. Estimates for the distribution of number of new products shown in Table 4 show that large positive innovations are likely to be followed by the appearance of a multitude of products, which is consistent with firms vying for market share following a breakthrough. The magnitude of previous innovations also reduces the dispersion around the number of new products that enter. The share of consumers opting for the trial product in the prior period also increases the likelihood of more products entering the market. The reason is that, as more consumers select trial products, firms have more room for experimentations which provides them with valuable information about the viability of new treatments that they can now introduce into the market more rapidly. The fit of our distribution of new products is shown in Figure 8. It shows that the empirical distribution is not far from the average (over time periods) of the predicted probabilities generated by the model.

## 5.2 Utility Parameter Estimates

Utility parameters are reported in Table 5. The utility that individuals obtain from each choice (drawing from a cluster, joining a trial, staying on their current treatment) depends on their socio-demographic and health characteristics. These interactions help to explain heterogeneity in choices across groups that are not attributable to variation in continuation payoffs or variation in current net income. In interpreting parameter estimates, note that the non pecuniary utility from no treatment is normalized to zero across groups. Therefore, parameter estimates govern flow non pecuniary utility for different groups relative to what they gain from not taking a treatment.

According to parameter estimates, clusters and trials lead to a utility cost and, generally, these penalties are higher for non-white patients. Black men face a particularly high penalty of trial participation, a finding that is consistent with a broad literature investigating historical reasons why blacks are reluctant to enter trials to use experimental drugs (Harris et al., 1996). Moreover, healthier individuals have a lower utility of choices where they face uncertainty, including clusters or trials. Interestingly, healthier individuals gain utility from using drugs they have used before. These results suggest that healthier individuals dislike uncertainty about drugs and, perhaps, switching costs relative to their less healthy counterparts. This may capture more frequent contact with doctors among less healthy patients, who are thus encouraged to switch or otherwise experiment with new treatments. We also find that the utility costs of treatment relative to no treatment are stronger for younger individuals. This is perhaps reflective of age-dependent tolerance for medication, especially if older individuals have grown accustomed to using medications for other health problems.

Finally, individuals dislike ailments regardless of which product they are using. This utility parameter is key as it helps explain why individuals eschew medications that have high dynamic payoffs in the form of better future health. This finding is consistent with individuals who consider their quality of life in a multidimensional manner. Similar results have been found in Chan and Hamilton (2006) and Papageorge (2016), who showed that even in the context of a deadly infection (HIV), individual treatment choices reflect a distaste for side effects. Finally, our results show that individuals gain positive utility from income, which reflects consumption utility and is expected.

### 5.3 Transitions and Outcomes

Next, we discuss the processes describing how state variables produce outcomes or transition to other states. Individuals judge the quality of any product in terms of its ability to raise their future CD4 count and its ability not to generate ailments. We estimate the processes for health and ailments, which includes estimating the characteristics of products, using equations (19) and (20). To conserve on space, we present the coefficient estimates in Tables S5 and S6 in Appendix D (see Column 5 in both tables). The top panels of Figure 9 show how current health transforms into future health and lack of ailments. While the slight concavity of the production function for health could be well approximated by a linear function, the production function for ailments is very non linear. The figures suggest that changes in health below a CD4 count of 250 units generate much larger movements in the log odds ratio of getting ailments than changes in health above that threshold.

Health also exhibits strongly non-linear relationships with other outcomes. This result

helps to explain differences in optimal choice for individuals with somewhat similar health profiles (as measured by CD4 count). Figure 9, plots the estimated relationship between health and several outcomes: income, out-of-pocket payments, labor supply and survival. According to the figure, income increases steeply with CD4 count for very sick individuals but the effect of health flattens substantially for individuals with CD4 counts above 250. The health profile of out-of-pocket payments in Figure 9 is the mirror image of the health profile for income with deeper decreases in payments as health increases for the sickest. This makes sense as health expenditures due to opportunistic infections, for example, would be expected to decline precipitously as a result of small health increases at low health levels. Similarly, the odds of working increases with health until a CD4 count of about 350 units and then it flattens. Finally, the effect of health increases on survival are more dramatic the more sick individuals are. Even though the positive impact of health on survival remains at higher health levels, this relationship diminishes considerably after a CD4 count of about 250 units.

In general, the health profiles in Figure 9 tell a very consistent story about CD4 count and HIV infection. The effect of marginal health increases on outcomes is much stronger for individuals with low CD4 counts and it seems to flatten after individuals surpass well-known cutoffs below which AIDS occurs. This is consistent with the idea that low CD4 counts have little discernible impact on symptoms or survival unless the AIDS threshold is reached. Below that threshold, further reductions have large effects on outcomes since the body's immune system becomes increasingly compromised and is therefore unable to fight off routine infections. These results underscore the importance of modeling the relationship between health and outcomes in a non linear fashion in the context of HIV.

We also estimate other sources of variation in outcomes. Table 6 presents our results for the income equation. Individuals who do not suffer ailments have higher income as their productivity is likely to be higher. Income is concave in age and it increases with labor participation and education. Minorities have lower income. At any period individuals may incur out-of-pocket costs related to their treatment consumption decision. According to Table 7, conditional on having out-of-pocket expenditures, these payments increase with age. Minorities spend less and more educated people spend more. Similarly, individuals that suffer ailments spend more, perhaps because they are managing other health conditions. Even with heavy subsidization in the HIV treatments market, individuals wanting to consume a product must pay part of the cost and this is reflected in higher expected payments. Labor market participation increases expected payments, which may reflect different pricing schemes for public versus private insurance.

Labor participation is stochastic in our model and it is revealed to individuals at the

beginning of the period. Estimates in Table 8 show that the log odds ratio of working versus not working increases with age until about age 40 and then decreases. The odds of working increase with education and they increase substantially if the individual had worked the previous period. At the end of every period individuals face the possibility of death. Estimates in Table 9 imply that the log odds ratio of death versus survival decreases with age until about age 35 and then increases. The likelihood of death is smaller for black individuals and for individuals who are not suffering ailments.

## 5.4 Simulated Choice Dynamics and Model Fit

In Figure 10, we plot observed treatment choices over time along with those generated by the model.<sup>33</sup> In general, we are able to capture basic trends, including the rise in treatment usage as drugs improve through innovation. We also capture trials participation dynamics fairly well, but we have a harder time reproducing the spike in participation shortly before HAART introduction. The reason for this may be that, although our model accounts for changes in the demand for trials, there was also a shift in the supply of trials as a number of new drugs were tested that would eventually comprise HAART. Hence, the spike in participation would not be fully captured by our model as it focuses on patient demand.<sup>34</sup> Beyond this spike, however, our model can capture the main contours of choice dynamics.

## 6 Alternative Choice and Technology Paths

Conditional on an initial state, our estimated model can generate a distribution of technological paths. We start this section by illustrating this feature of our model and by assessing the likelihood of the observed technological path (Section 6.1). Next, we go on to discuss how different kinds of choice dynamics would influence the distribution. We demonstrate that alternative market shares could speed or slow the development of technologies that potentially increase social welfare (Section 6.2). This naturally leads to a discussion of policies that could raise consumer welfare, which we examine in Section 7

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<sup>33</sup>The fit of our parametric ccps is discussed in Appendix B

<sup>34</sup>In a companion paper, we model supply of trials more explicitly and demonstrate the increase in trials prior to the introduction of HAART in part explains the observed spike in the likelihood of participation. In the current framework, we could model supply shifts in a reduced-form manner as a temporary decrease in the utility cost of joining a trial, which would reflect the ease of finding a trial in which to participate. We abstract from supply here, however, since the focus of our model is on demand shifts and innovation.

## 6.1 The Distribution of Technology Paths

Imbedded in our estimation procedure is the simulation of different innovation paths that are generated by the same distribution of innovations that yields the realized path. This means that conditional on an initial aggregate state, we can contrast the realized technological path against the full distribution of paths. In particular, we take the 1990 distribution of state variables (before HAART introduction) as given and simulate forward 1000 paths of technology, choices and state variables for 18 years. We repeat the procedure using the 1997 distribution of state variables, once HAART has been introduced. We plot the mean of the simulated distributions across time, and contrast it against the realized trends in the data.

First, we consider the path of aggregate health and the path of the health component of the centroid. Results are plotted in Figure 11, where the green line is the realized path, the black line is the mean simulated path and the dotted lines are bands of one standard deviation. Considering the plots on the left, where the simulation begins in 1990, it is clear that HAART introduction was a tail event. The observed path of innovations follows the simulated paths quite well until 1996. Thereafter, the health centroid, which summarizes effectiveness of market drugs weighted by their share, and the aggregate health of consumers in the market are far above what would have been expected. Between the years 1996 and 2000, the realized path of the centroid is outside of the one-standard deviation band. Interestingly, the expected centroid approaches the realized centroid as time goes on. This means that the gradual progress of technology was expected to improve drug effectiveness until eventually something nearly as good as HAART would have come along. However, the timing was different because products with efficacy similar to HAART treatments were expected to appear far later than it actually did. Looking at the right side of Figure 11, where the simulation begins in 1997, notice that the realized path underperforms the average simulated path. This means that technology, measured by effectiveness, was expected to improve more than it did from the perspective of 1997.

In Figure, 12, we perform a similar analysis for the other product quality: lack of side effects. Here, realized product quality measured by the centroid, as well as aggregate ailments, seems to have underperformed what would have been expected from the distribution of innovations. In fact, one of the disappointments with regard to early versions of HAART treatments is that their side effects were quite harsh, which led many HIV+ men to avoid using them despite their effectiveness (Papageorge, 2016). In Figure 13 we consider the paths of survival and consumption. The results match those on health: HAART introduction was a tail event, which increased survival and product consumption. Finally, in Figure 14, we compare simulated paths with the realized path in terms of product entry and exit. The

realized path of product entry is often outside the one standard deviation band around the mean. The realized path of product exit is within the bands but is often below the average path. In other words, the entry path with several high-entry periods seems unlikely given our distribution. Given our results in Figure 8, we argue that our under-estimation of entry does not mean that our model fits data poorly. Rather, our model is successful at treating breakthroughs (and subsequent entry of products) as tail events.

## 6.2 Demand Pull: How Consumer Choices Affect Innovation

Findings from this section demonstrate that a policy that changes consumer choices will affect the path of innovation. We consider the evolution of technology and aggregate outcomes under two choice regimes taking as initial condition the state of the world in 1991. In the first, just like in our model, individuals are dynamic optimizers. The distribution of technological paths under this regime was obtained in Section 6.1. In the second regime consumers choose options at random, which neutralizes the dependence of the technological path on the preferences and characteristics of consumers that would otherwise determine their optimal choices.

In Figure 15, we consider the mean—over 1000 simulated paths—of average consumer health and ailments under each regime (left-hand-side plots) and the mean health and ailments components of the centroid (right-hand-side plots). In Figure 16, we consider the mean—over 1000 simulated paths—of survival, share of consumers, entry and exit. Results in Figure 15 show that the random choice regime outperforms dynamic optimal choice in all but physical ailments technology. This occurs because the random choice regime yields higher product entry as a consequence of higher experimentation due to the randomization of choices (see Figure 16). As we showed in Table 3, new products are on average better in health terms due mostly to the second mode of the distribution of innovations. Since efficacy moves faster in the random choice regime, consumer ailments improve through the health channel instead of being a consequence of improvements in the ailments characteristics of products (see equation (19)). Figure 16 also shows the dynamic optimal regime generate lower survival rates. This result underscores how individuals value their quality of life beyond solely caring about health, and it also shows how individuals’ preferences tilt the path of technology, in this case towards fewer side effects early on. In general, these results suggest that dynamic payoffs could rise overtime through technology improvements under choice regimes that are inconsistent with individual dynamic optimization. We explore these possibilities for welfare improvement in the next section.

## 7 Demand Externalities and a Constrained Planner

Results in the previous section provide evidence suggestive of an externality whereby individually rational, optimal choices slow the path of technological progress in the direction of treatment efficacy. Ultimately, this can translate into welfare losses because atomistic individuals do not incorporate into their decisions the impact of aggregate choices on the process of innovation. Given the size of the individual’s state space, numerically solving the problem of an unrestricted planner quickly becomes intractable.<sup>35</sup> We simplify the analysis by exploring the nature of the externality using a one-period planner that is constrained to act only on the basis of a subset of the information contained in the individual’s state.<sup>36</sup> Because the planner is constrained, she does not necessarily improve upon the decentralized solution. Hence, if we find evidence that constrained planner policies can improve welfare, the magnitude of the improvement is a lower bound compared to what an unconstrained planner could achieve.

The first constrained one-period planner we consider is one that assigns individuals to choices on the basis of their health and their previous treatment. In particular, when assigning individuals to choices, the planner considers two levels of health (high and low) and two categories of previous treatment choices (market treatment and no treatment/trial treatment). Compared to the amount of information available to the individual in his state  $\mathcal{Z}_{it}$ , the amount of information that the constrained planner uses for her assignment rules is minimal. Nevertheless, the number of assignment rules that we need to evaluate is computationally burdensome. For every individual in a  $\langle \text{health}, \text{previous treatment} \rangle$  category, the planner assigns one of the six choices available or lets the individual act freely.<sup>37</sup> The constrained planner can choose one of  $7^2 * 6^2 = 1,764$  possible assignment rules. Notice, because the constrained planner has less information than the individual, it may be optimal for her to let some groups act freely even though those groups will not internalize the full costs or benefits of their behavior on other individuals in the market. This setup is attractive because it allows the planner to choose the same solution as dynamically optimizing atom-

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<sup>35</sup>By definition, an unrestricted social planner acting at every period can achieve at least the same level of welfare that atomistic individuals attain by simply allowing individuals to choose whatever they find individually optimal. Given the externality, the unrestricted planner could likely improve efficiency.

<sup>36</sup>An additional reason we consider a one-period planner doing so is consistent with the assumption that planner actions constitute a one-time, unexpected shock to consumers, which they do not incorporate into their decision-making. If so, we can compute lifetime utility under the counterfactual using CCPs estimated in Section 4. Otherwise, we might expect individuals to adjust their choices to anticipated planner policies, which would suggest that estimated CCPs are not valid for assessment of lifetime utility under counterfactual policies.

<sup>37</sup>Given the structure of the model, the planner can impose that a consumer stay on treatment only if the consumer chose a market treatment in the prior period.

istic individuals. The planner does this by simply letting every patient group (distinguished by health and previous choices) act freely. We solve the problem of the one-period planner in the first semester of 1991 by comparing average welfare across all possible 1,764 plans.

Results from this exercise, in Table 10, suggest that the constrained planner can do better than atomistic agents who make individually rational choices. In fact, the constrained planner can increase average welfare by about 20%, which is a first measure of the size of the externality. The best rules in the planner portfolio have certain characteristics. The constrained planner sends healthy individuals who did not consume a market treatment last period, to the no treatment option. In most cases she does the same with the sick individuals who also did not consume a market treatment last period. In general, she uses the richer information, in terms of product quality, of those who consumed a market treatment last period, to either set them free to act as they wish or she forces them to remain with their current treatment. One of the top ten rules includes trial participation. In this rule the planner sends sick individuals who did not consume a treatment last period to trials. The worst rules also contain certain patterns. They are characterized by sending healthy individuals who had consumed market treatments to trials. This imposes a high experimentation cost on those who dislike experimentation the most (the healthy) and disregards the information they had acquired about the quality of the treatment they consumed last period.

In general, the constrained planner attempts to use the treatment quality information of those who have it, setting them free to choose whether or not to stick with their treatment. This allows information consumers have gained by using a treatment to benefit all individuals in the market. The reason is that consumers, by remaining with a treatment they have already tried, reveal its quality, which influences the centroid and thus the progress of innovation. Moreover, the planner assigns healthy individuals with no treatment information (who are also the majority) to the no treatment alternative, which is consistent with the low quality of products in the early nineties.

In our second exercise we explore to what extent experimentation, in this case, experimentation in clinical trials, is one of the channels through which the externality acts. In other words, if individuals are not incorporating the future benefits of experimenting, and they rationally expect a certain level of aggregate experimentation given the distribution of consumer characteristics, then they may not participate in clinical trials and the level of experimentation resulting from this process may be suboptimal. We consider another constrained planner to get a sense of this problem. This planner's only tool is to randomly send individuals to clinical trials. In other words, all she can do is set a parameter  $q$ , which is the probability that everyone faces of being sent to a clinical trial. If an individual is not sent to a trial by the planner, he gets to decide freely what to do (which may entail joining a clinical

trial). Therefore, this constrained planner’s problem nests the dynamic optimal problem of atomistic individuals when the planner sets  $q = 0$ . We solve the problem of this one-period planner in the first semester of 1991. Figure 17 shows that the constrained planner can increase welfare by increasing experimentation randomly. However, if she imposes too much experimentation on the population, welfare will start declining because people do not like to experiment. According to Figure 17, the optimal level of  $q$  for the constrained planner is 0.10, which generates a share of trial participation of approximately 0.14.

This section underscores how, even with limited information or scope of action, a constrained planner can substantially increase welfare per capita. Moreover, we show that one of the mechanisms through which the externality acts is experimentation in clinical trials. Results in Section 5.1 showed that experimentation in clinical trials increases the expected value of the number of new products to be introduced to the market. Our one-period planner result shows that individuals may be experimenting sub optimally. In fact, one measure of the magnitude of the externality, acting through the channel of experimentation in clinical trials, is the increase in welfare per capita from the optimal participation rule which is about \$4,000 per capita.<sup>38</sup>

## 8 Conclusion

We build a structural model to assess the role of “demand pull” in the market for HIV drugs. We capture several mechanisms through which consumer demand affects innovation, including experimentation with new drugs by participating in clinical trials. By joining a trial, individuals gain access to experimental products that may be high-quality breakthroughs, but may also be less efficacious or unexpectedly toxic. Moreover, trial participation accelerates innovation. Consumer decisions can also bend the technological path if firms avoid innovating around unpopular products. Because individuals do not incorporate the consequences of their choices on the technological path, an externality arises.

Our results show that consumer behavior can slow the process of innovation and bend it towards innovation that make survival less likely. They also show that welfare per capita would be higher if experimentation occurred more frequently. We explored these issues by considering constrained planner problems, which provide initial measures of the size of the externality. We find that a constrained planner can increase welfare by around 20 percent. We also find that a constrained planner would increase trial participation by about 10 percent points, which yields an increase in welfare of 5 percent.

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<sup>38</sup>Recall income is measured in six-months periods.

Given our data, we have focused on how demand and consumer heterogeneity affect the path of technological progress. Other studies have placed more emphasis on the supply side (Carranza, 2010; Goettler and Gordon, 2011; Gowrisankaran and Rysman, 2012). A natural step forward, although by no means a simple one, would be modeling competition among firms and firm decisions to innovate by investing in R&D, while also maintaining an acceptable level of consumer heterogeneity and a role for demand pull. Doing so would expand the set of counterfactual policies we could analyze since it would allow us to incorporate how such policies would affect consumers in part through their impact on the strategic environment and resulting firm behavior.

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## 9 Figures and Tables

**Table 1:** Summary Statistics: Subjects. Visit 14-47 (1990-2007)

	Restricted Sample	
Subjects	1719	
	mean	std dev
Black	0.22	
Hispanic	0.09	
White	0.68	
High School	0.14	
Some College	0.29	
College	0.34	
More than College	0.23	
Died	0.40	
Died Conditional	0.20	
Ever Take Market Product	0.83	
Ever Take Trial Product	0.24	
Ever Work	0.74	
Ever Not Work	0.68	
Age in 1991	36.04	8.72

Notes: Standard deviation in square brackets. Data for unique individuals. *Ever Market Product* stands for ever consumed a market product during the period from visit 14 to visit 47. Similar definition holds for *Ever Trial Product*. *Died Conditional* is the proportion of individuals who died conditional on surviving until year 1995.

**Table 2:** Summary Statistics: Subjects-Visits. Visits 14-47 (1990-2007)

	Analytic Sample	Pre Haart	Post Haart
Obs	16851	6972	9879
Ailments	0.43	0.45	0.41
Market Product	0.65	0.49	0.76
Trial Product	0.07	0.09	0.05
Work	0.63	0.70	0.58
Age	44.48	40.89	47.01
	[8.03]	[6.99]	[7.75]
CD4	475	407	524
	[297]	[298]	[287]
Gross Income	17567	19036	16531
	[8787]	[8733]	[8677]
Out-of-pocket Pay	266	179	327
	[706]	[598]	[767]

Notes: Standard deviation in square brackets. Income and Out-of-pocket are semestral and measured in real dollars of 2000. Pre HAART era corresponds to visit  $\leq 24$  or (roughly) year  $\leq 1995$ .

**Table 3:** Moments of the Distribution of Innovations,  $F_\nu$ 

	mean	covariance matrix		Ho: $mean = 0$ (p-value)
<i>Health</i>	8.10	747.57	4.05	0.01
<i>NoAilments</i>	-0.02	4.05	0.16	0.62

Notes: Last column tests separately whether the each component of the mean is different than zero.

**Table 4:** Distribution of Number of New Products,  $F_N$ 

	coef.	se
$\mu$		
<i>MaxChange</i> <sub><math>t-1</math></sub>	0.432	0.246
<i>TrialsShare</i> <sub><math>t-1</math></sub>	6.177	2.462
$\ln \alpha$		
<i>Constant</i>	-0.206	0.451
<i>MaxChange</i> <sub><math>t-1</math></sub>	-1.019	0.626

Notes: Model specified in (3). The variable  $Q_{t-1}$  measures the distance between the previous period's new products and the previous period's centroid. It captures the relatively higher number of new products that follow the appearance of better innovations. The variable  $TrialsShare_{t-1}$  is the share of individuals going into a trial the previous period. According to the model in (3),  $E[New_t] = \mu$  and  $Var[New_t] = \mu(1 + \alpha\mu)$ .

**Table 5:** Utility Parameters,  $y_{it}$ 

parameter	variable	coef.	se
$\alpha_{4w}$	$1\{cluster\} \cdot white$	-1.385	0.206
$\alpha_{4b}$	$1\{cluster\} \cdot black$	-1.868	0.210
$\alpha_{4l}$	$1\{cluster\} \cdot hispanic$	-1.075	0.835
$\alpha_{4a}$	$1\{cluster\} \cdot a_{it-1}$	0.003	0.005
$\alpha_{4h}$	$1\{cluster\} \cdot h_{it-1}/10^3$	-3.385	0.134
$\alpha_{5w}$	$1\{trial\} \cdot white$	-2.678	0.168
$\alpha_{5b}$	$1\{trial\} \cdot black$	-3.755	0.170
$\alpha_{5l}$	$1\{trial\} \cdot hispanic$	-2.902	0.354
$\alpha_{5a}$	$1\{trial\} \cdot a_{it-1}$	0.051	0.003
$\alpha_{5h}$	$1\{trial\} \cdot h_{it-1}/10^3$	-1.702	0.082
$\alpha_{6w}$	$1\{stay\} \cdot white$	0.525	0.157
$\alpha_{6b}$	$1\{stay\} \cdot black$	0.396	0.159
$\alpha_{6l}$	$1\{stay\} \cdot hispanic$	0.480	0.674
$\alpha_{6a}$	$1\{stay\} \cdot a_{it-1}$	0.019	0.003
$\alpha_{6h}$	$1\{stay\} \cdot h_{it-1}/10^3$	1.048	0.101
$\alpha_x$	$x_{it}$	0.522	0.292
$\alpha_{xp}$	$x_{it} \cdot 1\{product\}$	-3.575	0.226
$\alpha_m$	$m_{it} - o_{it}$	0.141	0.023

Notes: Estimation of equation (13). Discount factor  $\beta = .8$ .  $1\{cluster\}$  indicates whether the individual chose one of the three clusters of products available.  $1\{product\}$  indicates whether the individual consumes a product in  $t$ ,  $1\{product\} = 1\{cluster\} + 1\{stay\} + 1\{trial\}$ .

**Table 6:** Gross Income,  $m_{it}$ 

variable	coef.	se
$h_{it-1}$	0.018	0.004
$h_{it-1}^2/10^3$	-0.064	0.019
$h_{it-1}^3/10^7$	1.138	0.381
$h_{it-1}^4/10^{10}$	-1.030	0.381
$h_{it-1}^5/10^{14}$	4.854	1.950
$h_{it-1}^6/10^{18}$	-11.270	4.850
$h_{it-1}^7/10^{20}$	0.101	0.046
$a_{it-1}$	0.482	0.114
$a_{it-1}^2$	-0.006	0.001
<i>black</i>	-5.534	0.366
<i>hispanic</i>	-4.167	0.570
<i>some college</i>	2.497	0.442
<i>college</i>	5.812	0.457
<i>more than college</i>	8.203	0.500
$l_{it}$	5.738	0.220
$x_{it}$	0.207	0.084
<i>constant</i>	-2.095	2.620

Notes: Estimation of equation (15). Random effects regression of gross-income on covariates.  $m_{it}$  is measured in thousands of real dollars of 2000. Health is given by the CD4 count measured in hundreds of cells per microliter.

**Table 7:** Tobit Model for Out-of-pocket Payments,  $o_{it}$ 

variable	coef.	se
$h_{it-1}$	-0.002	0.000
$h_{it-1}^2/10^3$	0.009	0.002
$h_{it-1}^3/10^7$	-0.133	0.029
$h_{it-1}^4/10^{10}$	0.090	0.022
$h_{it-1}^5/10^{14}$	-0.266	0.071
$h_{it-1}^6/10^{18}$	0.279	0.083
$a_{it-1}$	0.037	0.007
$a_{it-1}^2$	0.000	0.000
<i>black</i>	-0.240	0.021
<i>hispanic</i>	-0.119	0.025
<i>some college</i>	0.169	0.026
<i>college</i>	0.318	0.033
<i>more than college</i>	0.336	0.030
<i>market product</i>	0.429	0.026
<i>trial product</i>	0.313	0.043
$l_{it}$	0.105	0.016
$x_{it}$	-0.122	0.017
<i>constant</i>	-1.459	0.182
$\sigma^o$	0.862	0.066

Notes: Estimation of equation (16).  $market\ product = \sum_{k=1}^4 d_{kit}$ .  $o_{it}$  is measured on thousands of real dollars of 2000. Health is given by the CD4 count measured in hundreds of cells per microliter.

**Table 8:** Logit Model for Labor Supply,  $l_{it}$ 

variable	coef.	se
$h_{it-1}$	0.009	0.001
$h_{it-1}^2/10^3$	-0.013	0.002
$h_{it-1}^3/10^7$	0.075	0.023
$h_{it-1}^4/10^{10}$	-0.013	0.007
$a_{it-1}$	0.102	0.032
$a_{it-1}^2$	-0.001	0.000
<i>black</i>	-0.168	0.073
<i>hispanic</i>	-0.040	0.125
<i>some college</i>	0.312	0.105
<i>college</i>	0.537	0.103
<i>more than college</i>	0.613	0.108
$l_{it-1}$	4.458	0.056
<i>constant</i>	-5.914	0.742

Notes: Estimation of equation (17). Health is given by the CD4 count measured in hundreds of cells per microliter.

**Table 9:** Logit model for Death,  $1 - S_{it+1}$ 

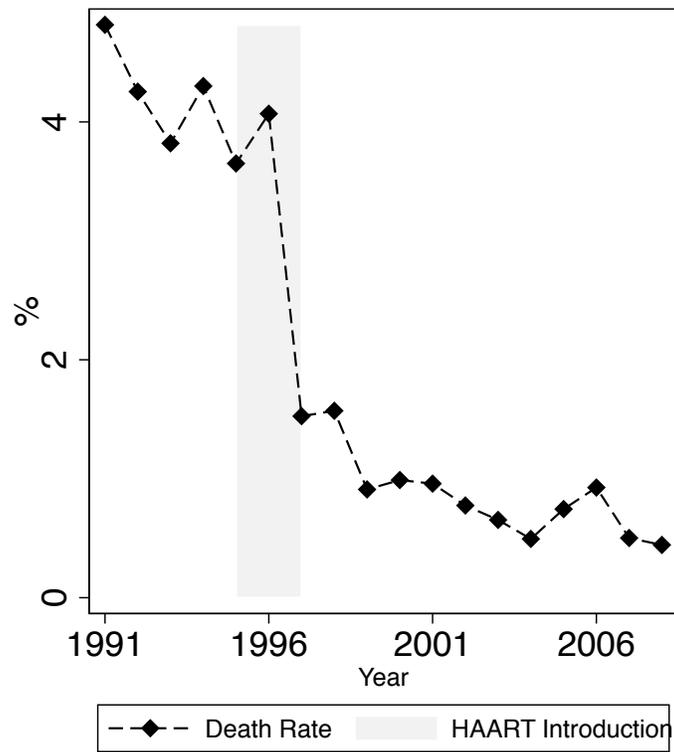
variable	coef.	se
$h_{it-1}$	-0.028	0.003
$h_{it-1}^2/10^3$	0.079	0.015
$h_{it-1}^3/10^7$	-1.104	0.292
$h_{it-1}^4/10^{10}$	0.704	0.220
$h_{it-1}^5/10^{14}$	-1.610	0.561
$a_{it-1}$	-0.116	0.058
$a_{it-1}^2$	0.002	0.001
<i>black</i>	-0.509	0.199
<i>hispanic</i>	0.034	0.235
<i>some college</i>	0.060	0.185
<i>college</i>	-0.353	0.185
<i>more than college</i>	-0.512	0.207
$x_{it}$	-1.140	0.159
<i>constant</i>	1.682	1.358

Notes: Estimation of equation (21). Health is given by the CD4 count measured in hundreds of cells per microliter.

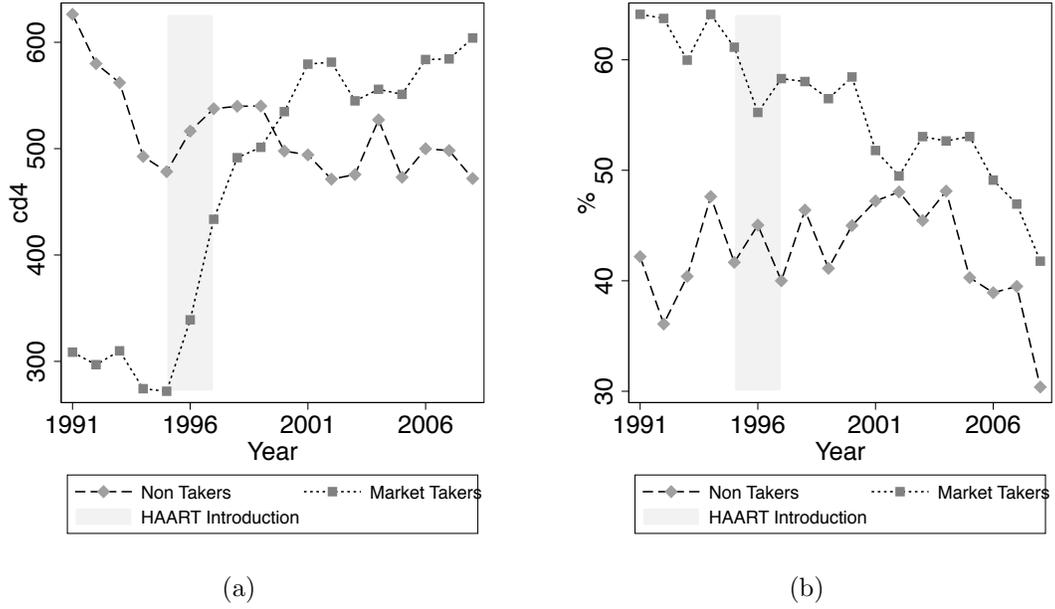
**Table 10: Constrained Planner: Assignment Rules**

	Group Share Average Welfare (\$1000)	Groups			
		0.50 highH, no/trial	0.26 highH, mk	0.05 lowH, no/trial	0.19 lowH, mk
Top ten rules	82.16	6	7	6	7
	81.81	6	7	6	4
	81.58	6	7	7	4
	81.56	6	7	7	6
	81.54	6	4	6	7
	81.41	6	4	6	4
	81.41	6	7	6	6
	81.23	6	7	5	7
	81.22	6	4	6	6
	81.19	6	4	7	7
Atomistic	69.48	7	7	7	7
Bottom ten rules	43.36	1	5	1	2
	43.33	3	5	3	2
	43.23	1	5	3	2
	43.20	1	5	2	2
	43.20	3	5	1	2
	43.09	2	5	2	5
	43.00	2	5	3	2
	42.92	2	5	1	5
	42.90	2	5	1	2
	42.89	2	5	3	5

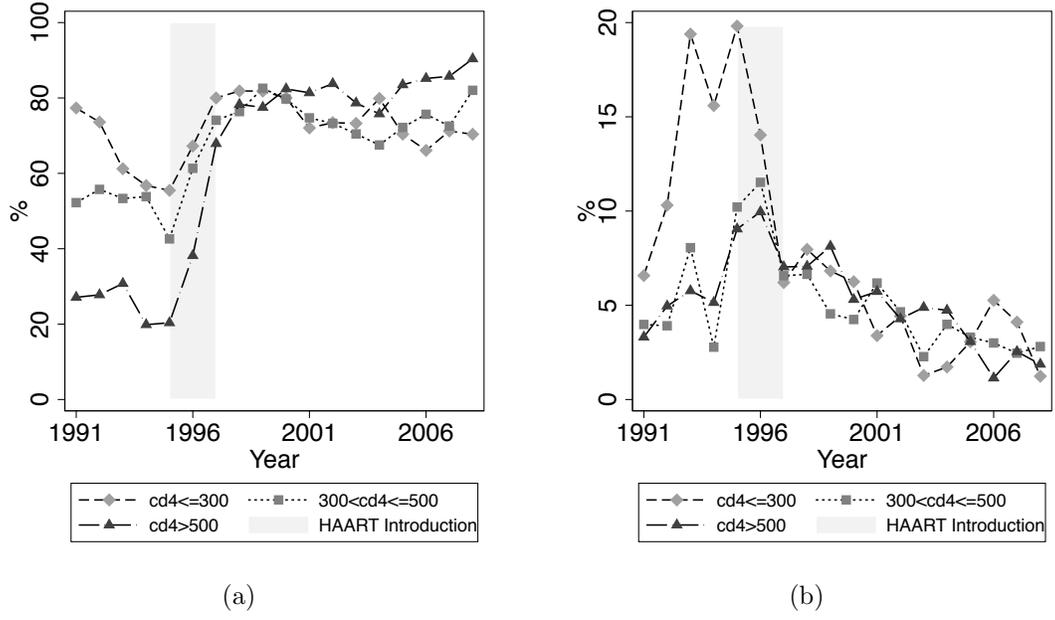
Notes: The table shows the best and worst assignment rules, and the average welfare they generate. The groups are determined by health status (high or low) and by previous treatment status (consumed a market treatment or not). The population shares of each of the groups are shown on top of their labels. Numbers 1 to 3 correspond to the three clusters available at that period. 4 corresponds to staying in previous market treatment. 5 stands for trial and 6 stands for no treatment. Finally, 7 stands for individually optimal choice; in other words, the planner renounces to her right to impose a choice and lets the individual in the group decide based on their richer information.



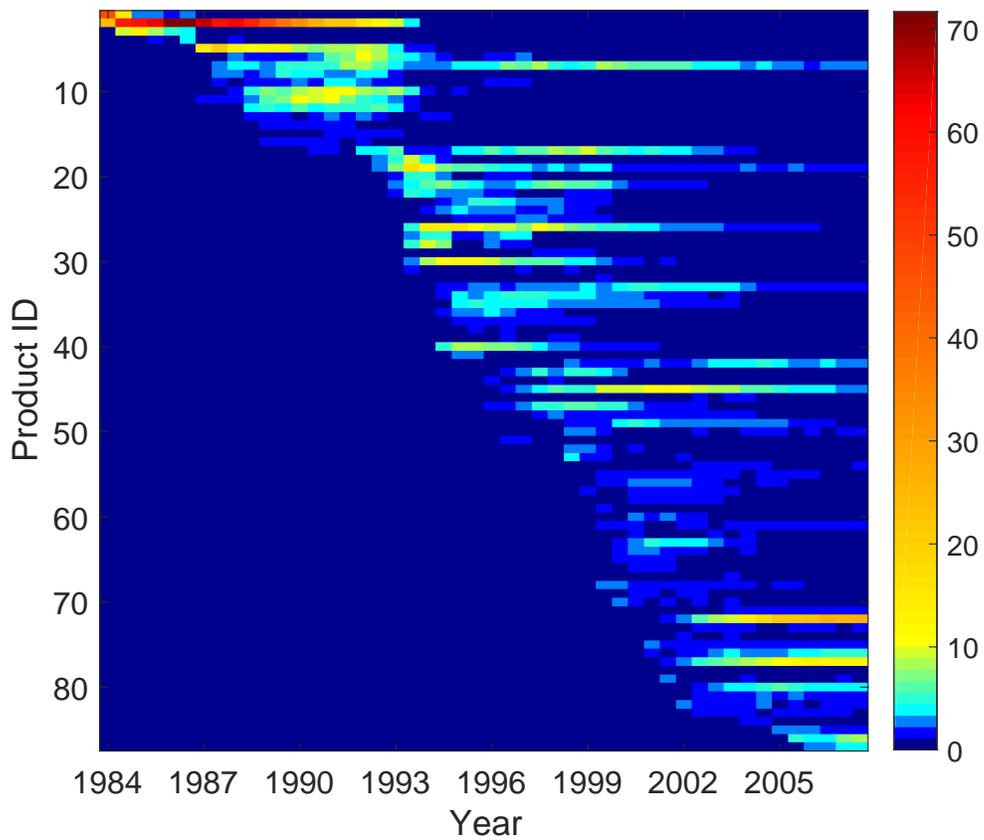
**Figure 2:** Death rate in the sample. More than 1500 surveyed individuals died for AIDS-related causes during our analysis period.



**Figure 3:** Health and side effects summary trends over time. Panel 3(a) shows the mean CD4 over time by consumption status. Panel 3(b) contains mean ailments over time by consumption status.

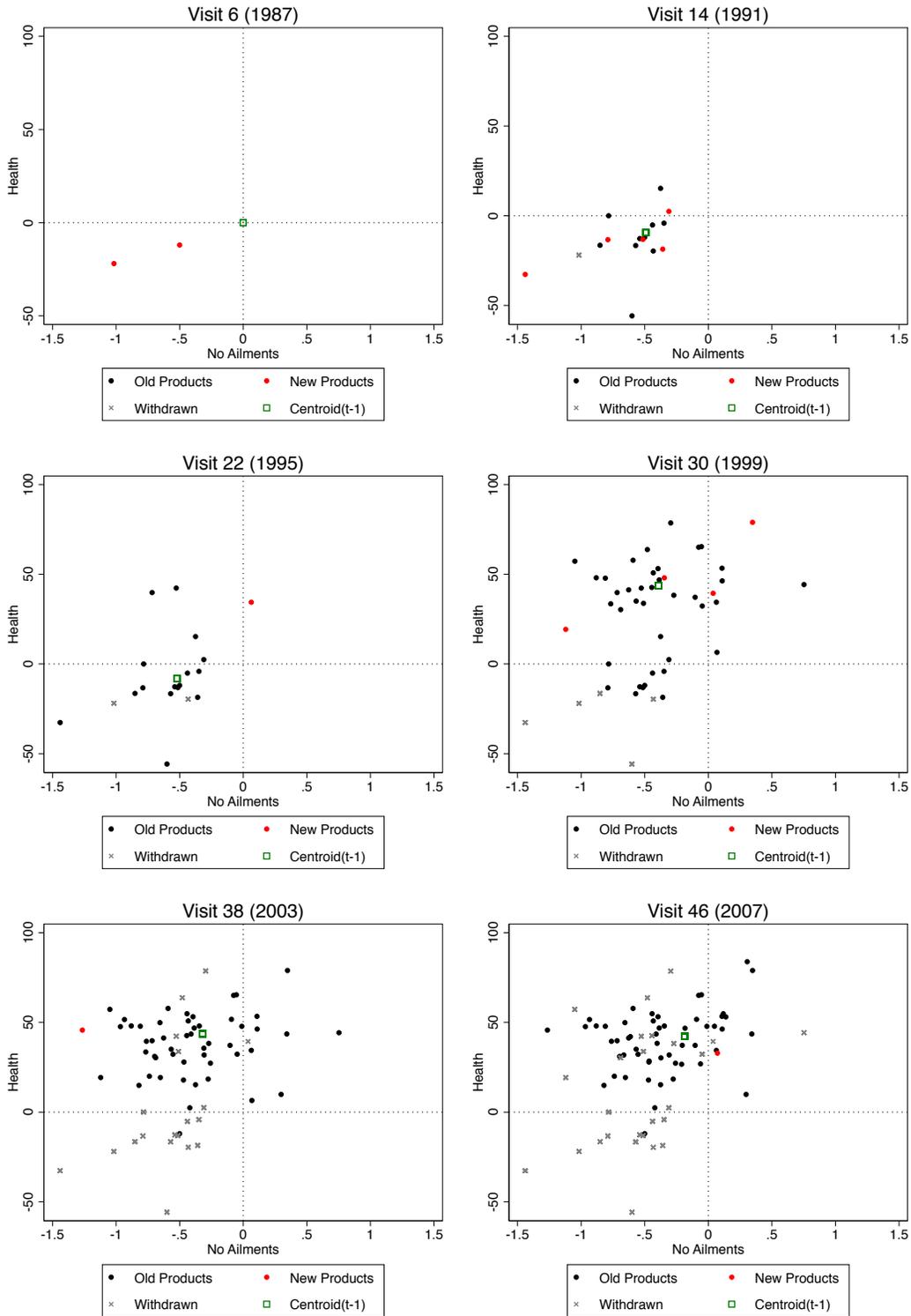


**Figure 4:** Consumer demand over time. Panel 4(a) shows treatment consumption over time by health status. Panel 4(b) shows trial participation over time by health status.



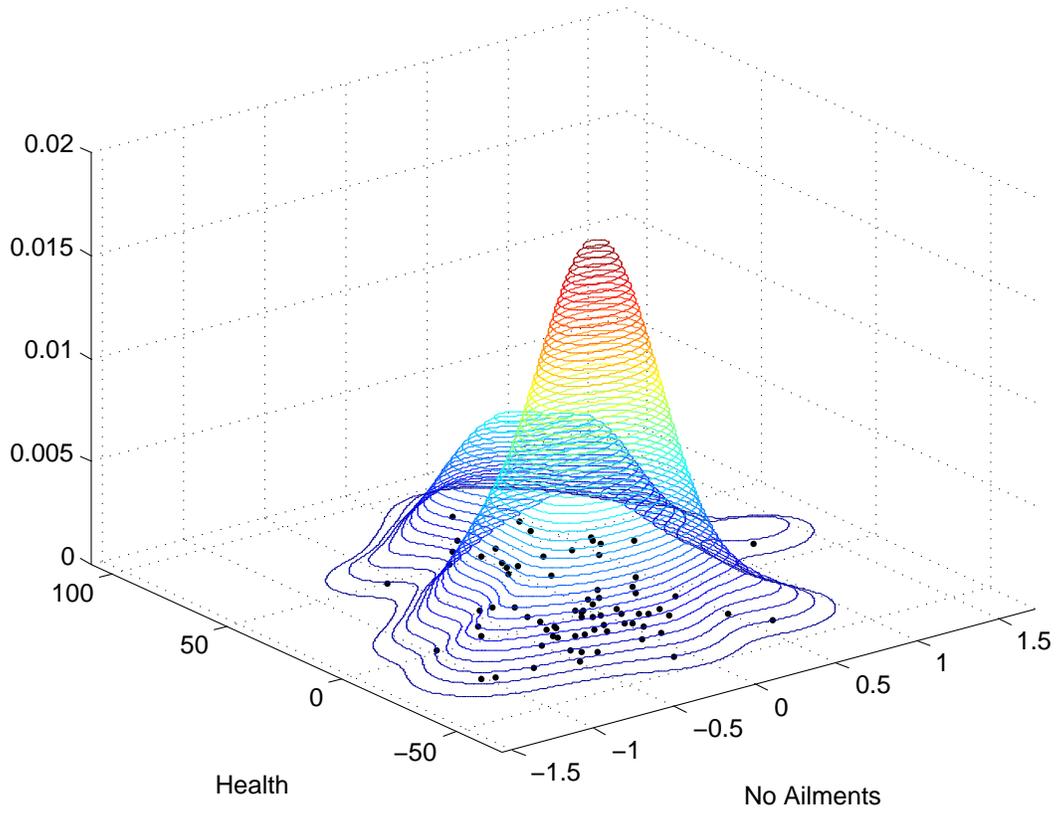
**Figure 5:** Diffusion of Products Over Time

Notes: HIV treatments from 1984 to 2008. Each id—or row—represents a product. Color indicates the share of the market that the product captures. Shares are conditional on consuming a product. Early on there are few products with high shares, as time passes new products strip market share from incumbents and less popular products exit.



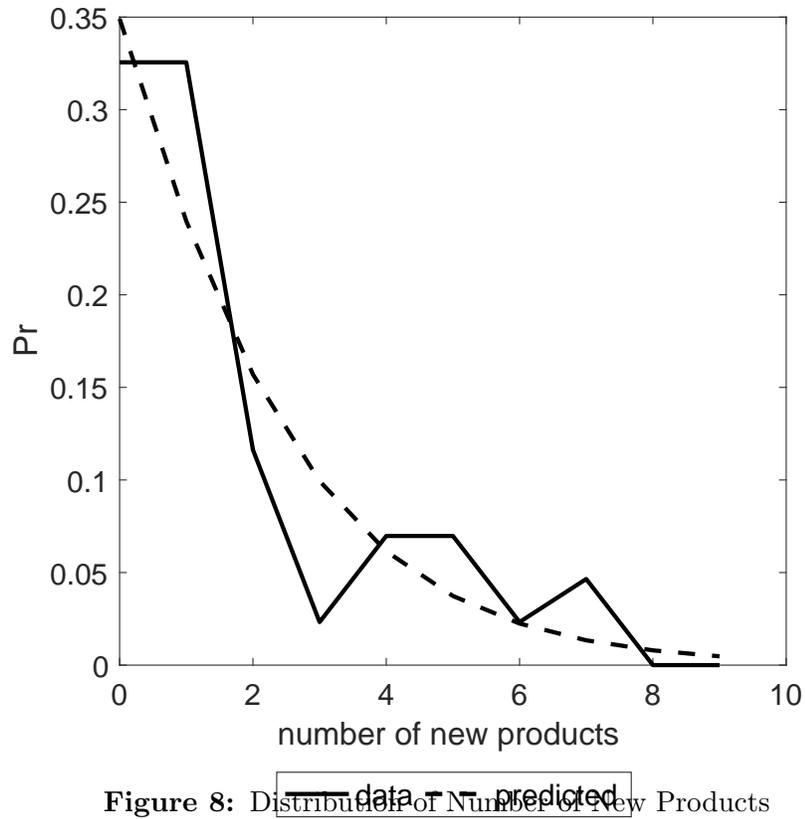
**Figure 6: Treatment Evolution**

Notes: Figure shows snapshots of the evolution of the state of the product market at the different stages. Products are two-dimensional. On the  $x$ -axis is a measure of a treatments ability to not cause side effects. On the  $y$ -axis is a measure of its contribution to underlying health. Dimensions are measured in different scales. Incumbent products are shown in black. New products are shown in red. Withdrawn products are shown as  $x$ . The green square is a measure of the prevalent technology in the previous period.



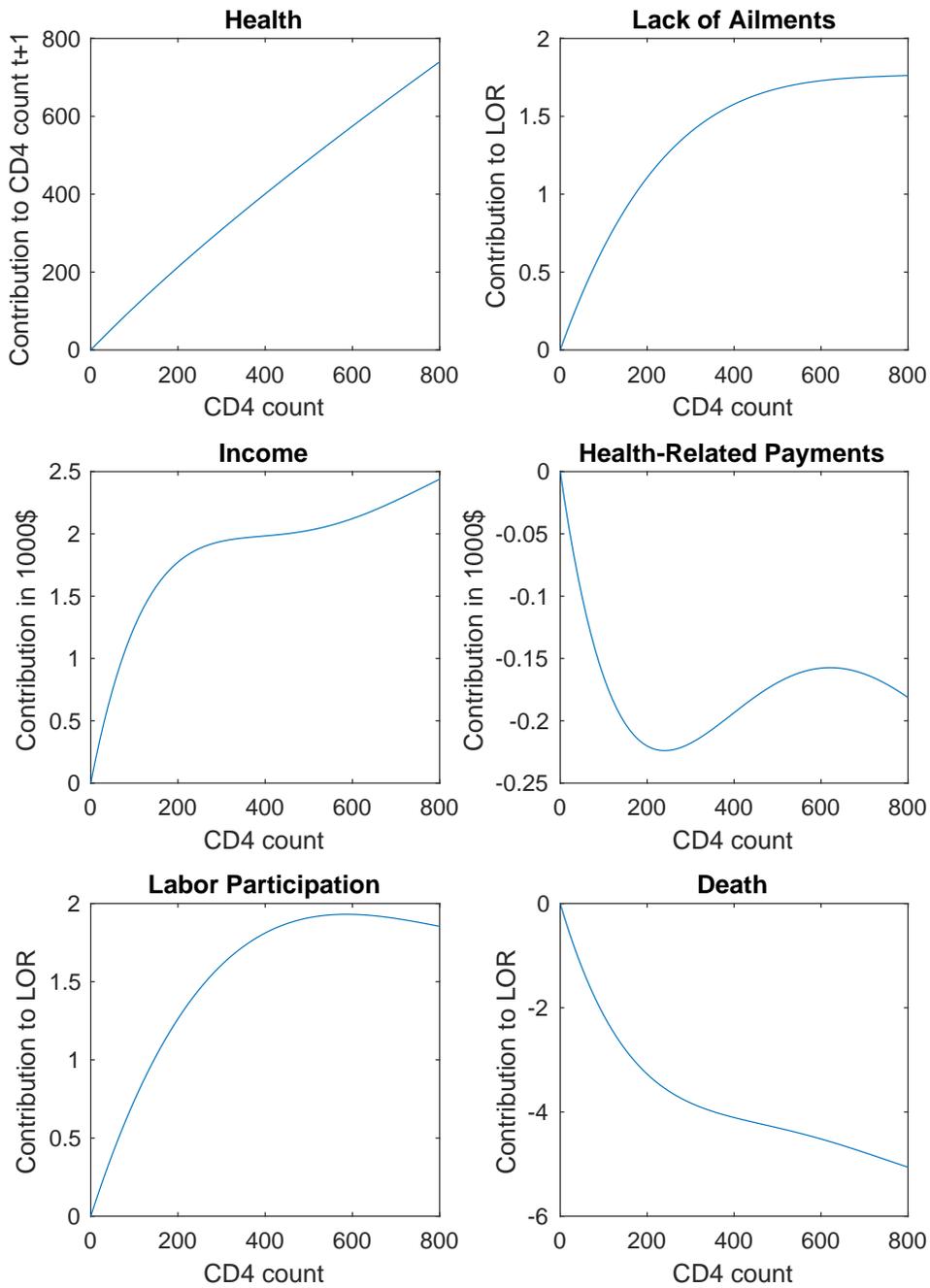
**Figure 7:** The Distribution of Innovations,  $F_\nu$ .

Notes: Distribution estimated non parametrically from the realized innovation vectors of the form  $\nu_{\theta_{tr}} = \theta_{tr} - \omega_{t-1}$ , where  $\theta_{tr}$  are the characteristics of the new product  $r$  at  $t$  and  $\omega_{t-1}$  is the centroid for innovation at the time the product was in trials.



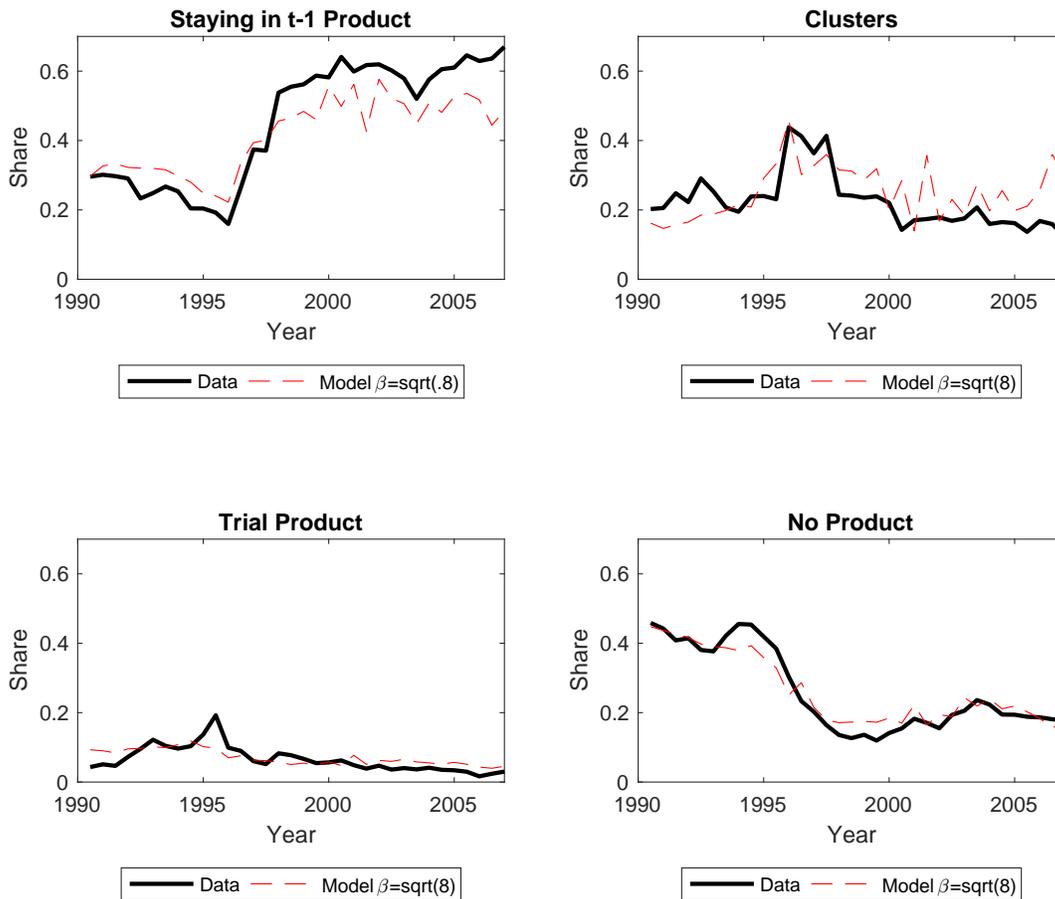
**Figure 8:** Distribution of Number of New Products

Notes: Model specified in (3). Figure shows the empirical distribution of new products and the average over time of the predicted probabilities using the estimated parameters in Table 4.



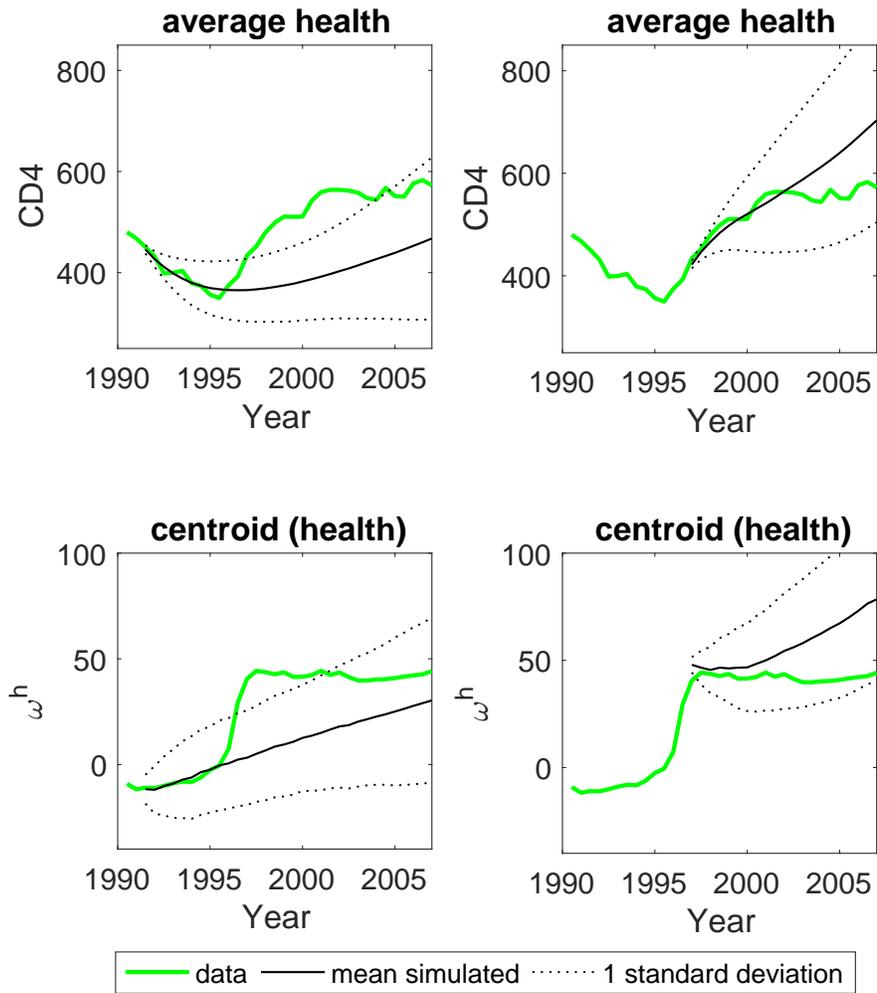
**Figure 9:** Health Effect on Future Health and Outcomes

Notes: CD4 Count measured in hundreds of cells per microliter. LOR stands for log odds ratio. Semestral income measured in thousands of dollars of 2000.



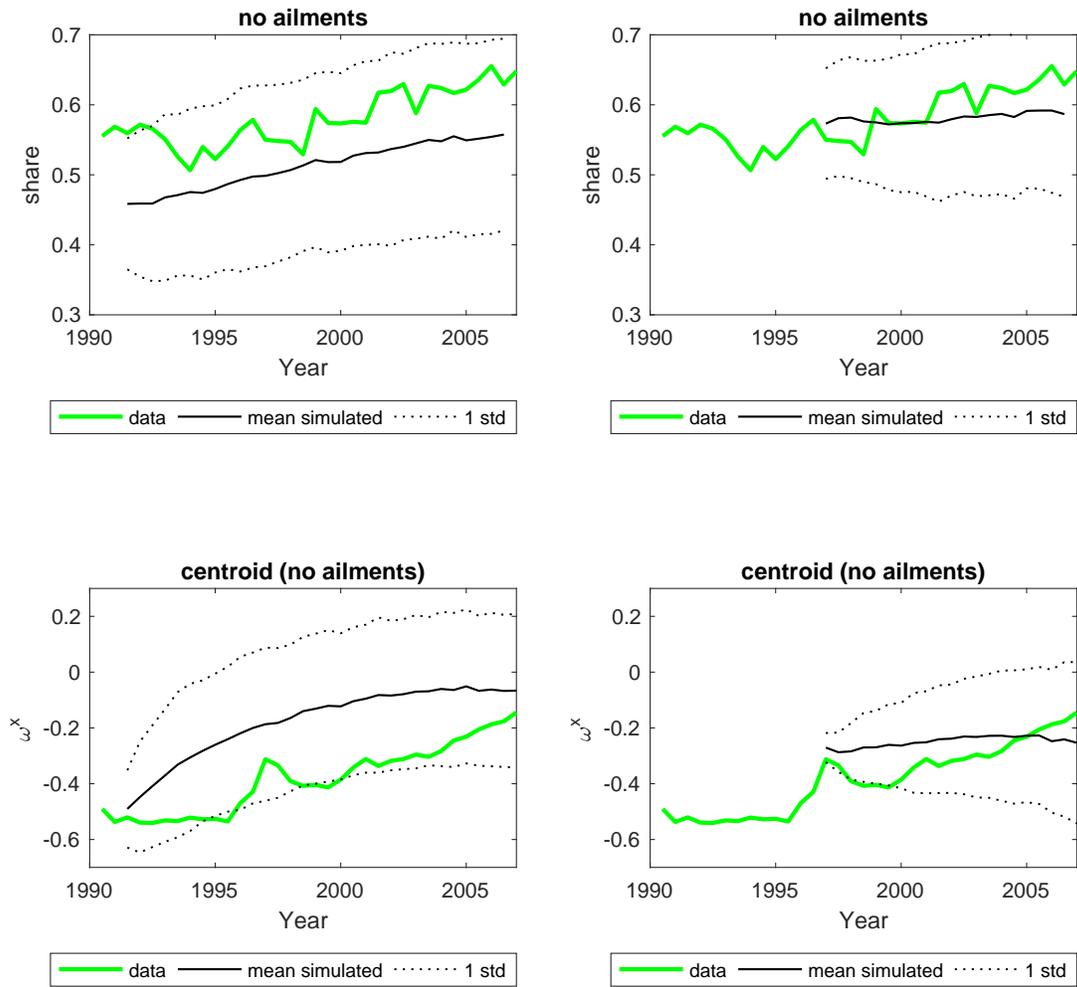
**Figure 10:** Goodness of Fit Figures

Notes: Simulated and empirical choice rates over time.



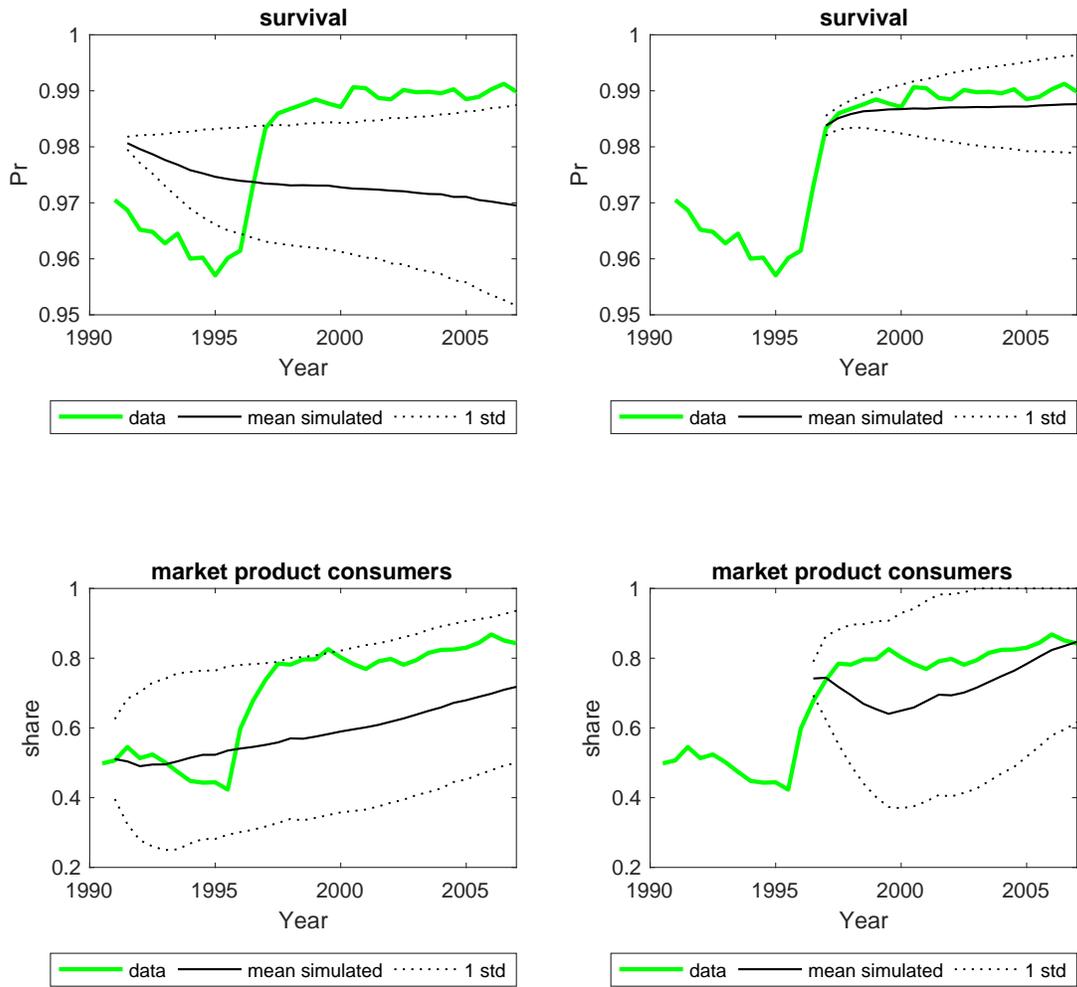
**Figure 11:** Distribution of Technology Paths: Health

Notes: statistics computed over 1000 simulated paths conditional on the state of the world at 1991 and 1997.



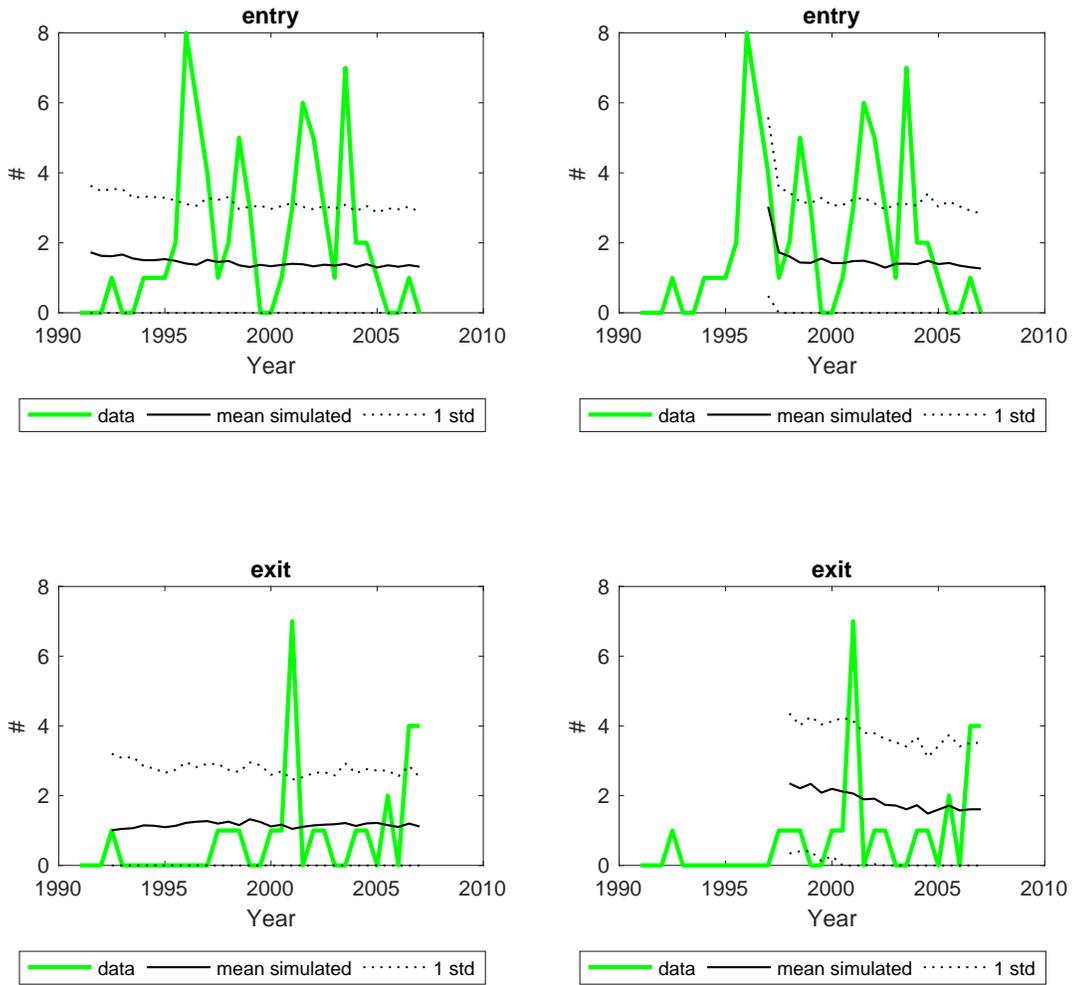
**Figure 12:** Distribution of Technology Paths: No Ailments

Notes: statistics computed over 1000 simulated paths conditional on the state of the world at 1991 and 1997.



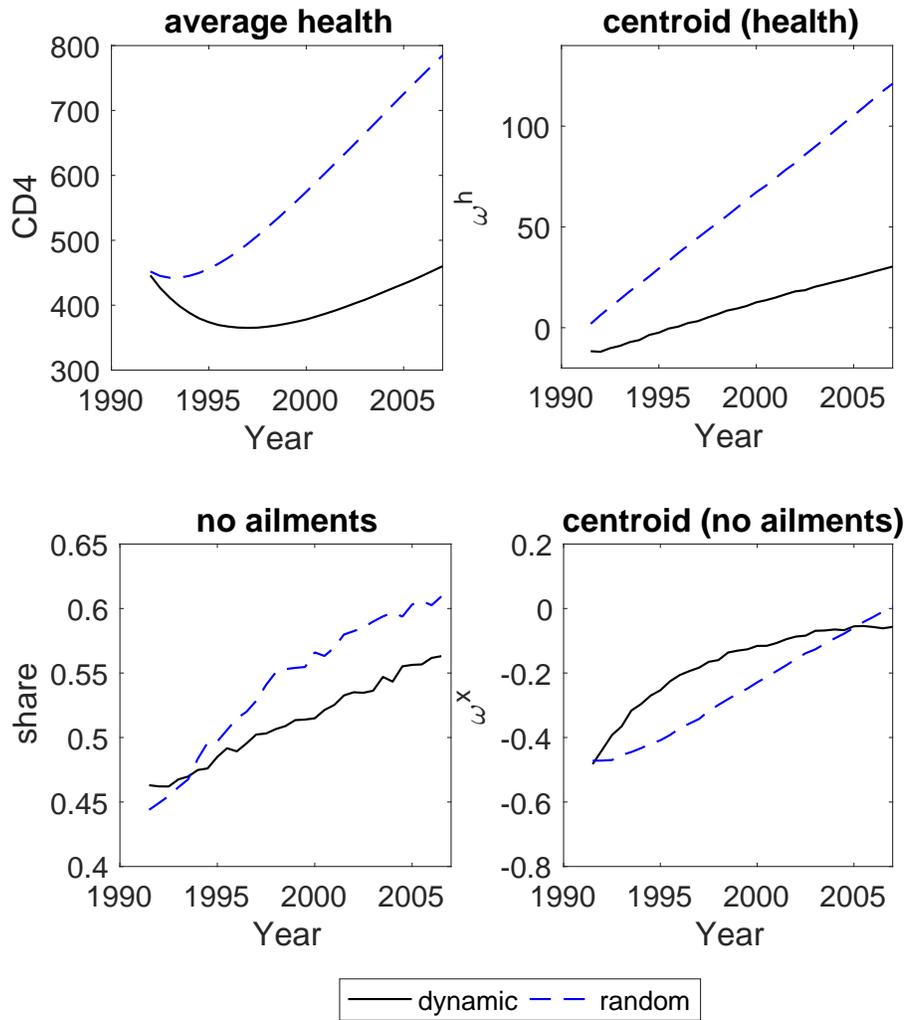
**Figure 13:** Distribution of Technology Paths: Survival and Product Consumption

Notes: statistics computed over 1000 simulated paths conditional on the state of the world at 1991 and 1997.



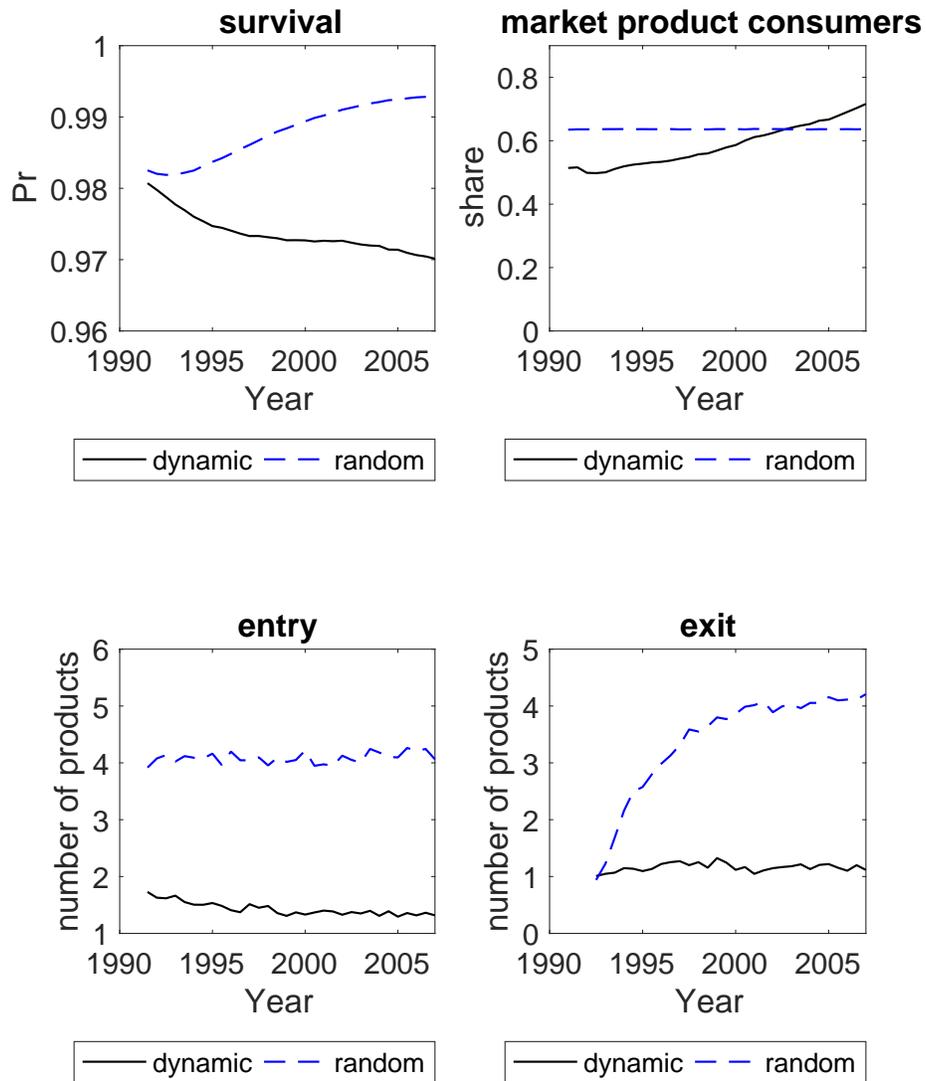
**Figure 14:** Distribution of Technology Paths: Entry and Exit

Notes: statistics computed over 1000 simulated paths conditional on the state of the world at 1991 and 1997.



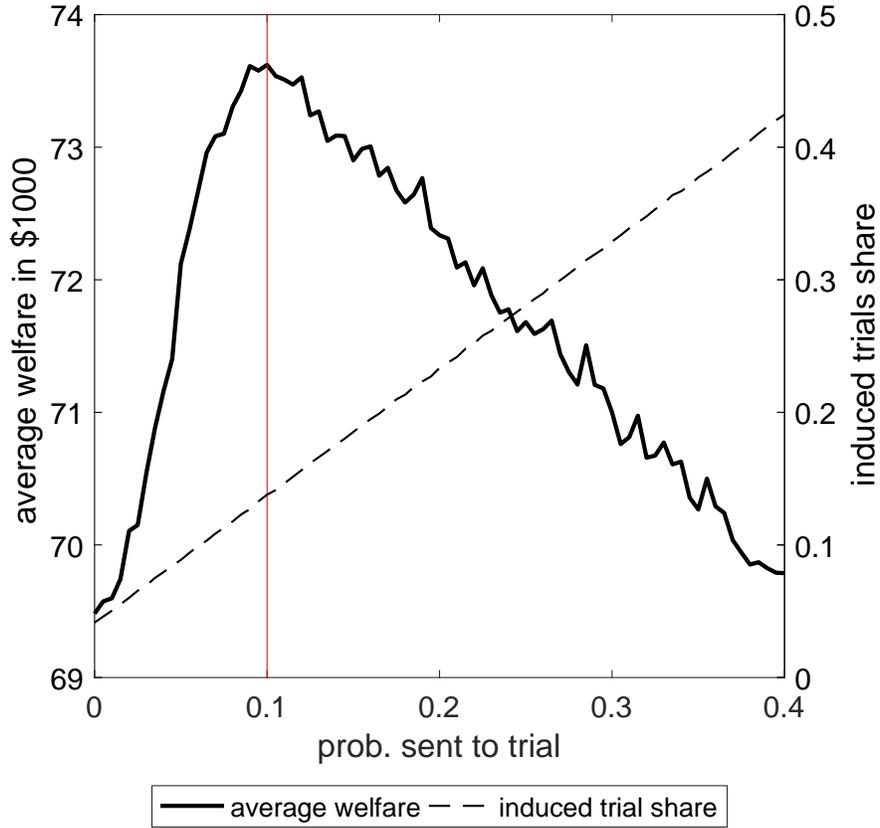
**Figure 15:** Alternative Choice Regimes: Health and No Ailments

Notes: Alternative choice regimes are: (i) optimal dynamic choice and (ii) random choice. Mean over 1000 simulated paths of the relevant statistic conditional on the state of the world at 1991.



**Figure 16:** Alternative Choice Regimes: Survival, Consumption, Entry, and Exit

Notes: Alternative choice regimes are: (i) optimal dynamic choice and (ii) random choice. Mean over 1000 simulated paths of the relevant statistic conditional on the state of the world at 1991.



**Figure 17:** Constrained Planner: Random Assignment to Clinical Trials

Notes: Average welfare generated by a constrained planner that sends individuals to trials randomly. The constrained planner sets the value of the probability  $q$  that any individual is sent to a trial. If an individual is not sent to a trial, he may still choose to do so freely. This is reflected in the dotted line which represents the total share of trial participation yielding from a given planner policy. Beyond the value of the probability shown in the figure ( $q = 0.4$ ) average welfare keeps declining. The lack of smoothness in the figure is a consequence of the low number of simulations relative to the size of the step from one value of  $q$  to the next.

# A Data Appendix

Beginning in 1984, the Multi-Center AIDS Cohort Study (MACS) started gathering information regarding natural and treated histories of HIV infection in homosexual and bisexual men. The study is conducted in Baltimore, Chicago, Pittsburgh and Los Angeles. At each semi-annual visit, data are collected on: demographics, psychosocial characteristics, sexual behavior, and specially important for our purposes, antiretroviral (AV henceforth) drugs consumption and trial participation. In addition, blood tests are administered to measure health status and serostatus (whether the individual is HIV+). Data collection started with 4,954 men enrolled. Two more enrollments have taken place: one in 1987-1991 (668 additional men) and another in 2001-2003 (1,350 additional men). We only use data from the first two enrollments.

## A.1 Main Variables

Health ( $h_{it-1}$ ): At every visit individuals go through a physical examination in which several health measurements are taken. As our measure of underlying health status, we use the CD4 count obtained from a blood sample. “CD4 is a glycoprotein found on the surface of immune cells [...]. If CD4 cells become depleted, for example in untreated HIV infection, or following immune suppression prior to a transplant, the body is left vulnerable to a wide range of infections that it would otherwise have been able to fight. [...] Normal blood values are usually expressed as the number of cells per microliter (or cubic millimeter,  $mm^3$ ) of blood, with normal values for CD4 cells being 500-1200 cells/mm” (Wikipedia). We denote as  $h_{it-1}$  the CD4 count at of the individual at the start of period  $t$ .

Labor supply ( $l_{it-1}$ ): Whether the individual was working full time (35 hours or more) in visit  $t$ .

Income ( $m_{jit}$ ): Starting at visit 14, individuals answer the following question: “Which of the following categories describes your annual individual gross income before taxes”? For visit 14, categories are: less than 10000, 10000-19999, 20000-29999, 30000-39999, 40000-49999, 50000-59999, 60000-69999, 70000 or more, Doesn’t wish to answer. For visits 15 to 35, categories are: less than 10000, 10000-19999, 20000-29999, 30000-39999, 40000-49999, 50000 or more, Doesn’t wish to answer. For visits 36 to 41, categories are: less than 10000, 10000-19999, 20000-29999, 30000-39999, 40000-49999, 50000-99999, 60000 or more, Doesn’t wish to answer.

We censor all periods at 50000 or more to obtain a uniform question over time. Then we assign the middle point to individuals in the bracket. For the highest bracket we assign

the upper limit (50000). In our model gross income is divided by two since the survey asks about annual income. Gross income as well as out-of-pocket payments (below) are in constant dollars of 2000.

Out-of-pocket payments ( $o_{jit}$ ): Starting from visit 14, individuals are given the following direction “Please estimate the TOTAL out-of-pocket expenses that you or other personal sources (your lover, family or friends) paid for prescription medications since your last visit.”<sup>39</sup> As opposed to the gross income question, this question is open so values are not categorized.

Ailments ( $x_{jit}$ ): Starting from at visit 4, individuals are asked about physical symptoms. Even though other ailments are recorded, we focus on unusual bruises lasting at least two weeks, unintentional weight loss of at least 10 pounds, fatigue, diarrhea, fever, night sweats, and tender/enlarged glands. The last 5 ailments must be felt for at least 3 days.

Even though individuals are asked explicitly about side effects starting from visit 13, we choose not to use such data because it is less consistent and, more importantly, because we do not think individuals are able to differentiate correctly between side effects and symptoms. Therefore, in our model  $x_{it}$  takes the value of 1 if individual reports having any of the problems mentioned above.

Race ( $b_i$ ): Individuals in the sample are either white, black or hispanic.

Age ( $a_{it}$ ): Age of the individual at the beginning of period  $t$ .

## A.2 Products and Product Components

At every visit after visit 6, individuals are asked whether they took any medication to fight AIDS. Starting from visit 13, as the number of medications becoming available for HIV exploded, separate surveys were administered for antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) and non antiretroviral drugs (NARVs). We focus on ARVs since these are the drugs used to treat HIV infection. Further, since our analysis includes estimating the health and ailments of people using different drugs, we focus on observations where individuals have reported a treatment along with  $h_{it}$ ,  $h_{it-1}$ , and  $x_{it}$ .

Individuals are asked to name specifically which drugs they took as well as whether or not they took the drug as part of a research study (the exact wording of the question regarding research studies changes slightly over time). Some of the reported drugs are themselves coded as trials; we regard these instances as individuals participating in trials (see Table S1). If at individual  $i$  at period  $t$  is consuming one of his drugs as part of a trial we regard

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<sup>39</sup>Wording changes slightly in visits 14 and 15.

individual  $i$  as consuming a trial product at period  $t$ .

Next, we define market products as treatments with no components consumed in trial. Given that the sum of effects of individual drugs is not equal to the effect of a treatment formed by the sum of the drugs, the relevant market products consumed in our data correspond to combinations of components. For instance a product is AZT and another is AZT plus 3TC plus ddI. Table S2 describes the individual components of market products. Some components, listed separately in Table S3, are in fact fixed-dose combinations of other components. In our sample, if individual  $i$  is consuming the fixed-dose combination  $(A + B)$  and individual  $i'$  is consuming components  $A$  and  $B$ , we assign consumers  $i$  and  $i'$  to the same treatment. One of the coded components in the data corresponds to “other ARVs”. We add all uncoded components (96 instances) to “other ARVs” which results in 158 instances of “other ARVs”. Finally, we treat  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  Interferons (177 instances and 33 instances, respectively) as one single component.

Our definition of market products, as combinations of drug components, generates 1835 different market treatments. We reduce the number of market products using the following algorithm:

1. We select our core market products as those treatments that overall have more than 40 instances.<sup>40</sup> We acknowledge that our definition of core treatments is biased against treatments appearing near the end of the time period studied. We address this issue by excluding the last 4 periods of data. Our core treatments are listed in Table S4 which shows that there are 70 core products overall and they have at most five components. Out of 20142 subject-visit observations of consumers taking market products, 13767 are covered by core treatments and 6375 correspond to non-core treatments.
2. Second, we assign non-core treatments to core treatments in the following fashion. Each step is used sequentially to assign remaining non core treatments that were not assigned in previous steps.
  - (a) Assignment of Non-core: Non core treatment  $A$  is assigned to core treatment  $B$  if  $B$  is the core treatment with the highest number of components that is contained by  $A$ . This procedure yields both non-unique assignments or null assignments. Of the remaining 6375 subject-visit observations of non core treatments, 2963 are assigned uniquely in this step. This means that we are left with 3412 subject-visit observations with non core treatments, 1647 that are assigned to multiple core treatments and 1765 that are not assigned to any core treatment.

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<sup>40</sup>We can change this to a different number and main results remain robust.

- (b) Assignment of Multiple Assignments:
- i. First, we use the past history of the individual. If at period  $t$  individual  $i$  is consuming non core treatment  $W$  that was assigned to both core treatments  $A$  and  $B$  in previous steps, and he was observed consuming core treatment  $A$  in period  $t - 1$ , then his treatment at  $t$  is assigned uniquely as  $A$ . We repeat this procedure until no further gains are obtained. Out of the remaining 1647 subject-visit observations of non core treatments with multiple assignments, 428 are assigned uniquely in this step.
  - ii. Second, we use the future history of the individual. If at period  $t$  individual  $i$  is consuming non core treatment  $W$  that was assigned to both core treatments  $A$  and  $B$  in previous steps, and he was observed consuming core treatment  $B$  in period  $t + 1$ , then his treatment at  $t$  is assigned uniquely as  $B$ . We repeat this procedure until no further gains are obtained. Out of the remaining 1219 subject-visit observations of non core treatments with multiple assignments, 274 are assigned uniquely in this step.
  - iii. Third, we assign the remaining 945 subject-visit observations of non core treatments with multiple assignments using the core treatment with the highest share at  $t$ : if at period  $t$  individual  $i$  is consuming non core treatment  $W$  that was assigned to both core treatments  $A$  and  $B$  in previous steps, and treatment  $A$ 's market share at  $t$  is greater than  $B$ 's, his treatment at  $t$  is assigned uniquely as  $A$ . This final step assigns uniquely the remaining 945 observations.
- (c) Next, we regard all 1765 not assigned treatment observations as “fringe” treatments since they do not contain any core treatment. We aggregate them in the following fashion. We aggregate all fringe treatments that appear at period  $t$  and assign to this “cohort” fringe treatment, all users consuming this product over time. Similarly as we do with core treatments, we only consider fringe cohort treatments that have at least 40 users. This reduces the number of observations by 345 (which represents 1.6% of the number of observations of treatment consumers). This aggregation leads to 17 fringe cohort treatments that we will treat in the same way we treat core treatments: as innovations from the trials distribution. This amounts to a total of 87 treatments over all. From this point on fringe treatments are included in the denomination of core treatments.
3. We have specified that a treatment gets withdrawn from the market if it has zero share for  $X = 2$  consecutive periods. However, in the data, a treatment may have zero share

for  $Y > X$  periods and then reappear again. 78 out of 87 core treatments have unique spells; we regard the remaining treatments with multiple spells as measurement error and follow the next procedure to ensure that treatments have one single spell from entry to exit. Consider a core treatment with multiple spells  $B$ .

- (a) We identify all spells that treatment  $B$  has in the data.
- (b) Among treatment  $B$ 's spells, we select the spell that contains the period in which treatment  $B$ 's share was the highest. We drop all observations of market consumers of treatment  $B$  that are not in this spell.
- (c) We follow the same steps for all 9 core treatments with multiple spells. Out of 19797 (20142 – 345) subject-visit observations of consumers taking market products, this smoothing procedure drops 42 observations leaving 19755 subject-visit observations of consumers taking market products.

As evidence of the relevance of the spells selected by this procedure we compute the difference between the maximum share in the selected spell and the maximum share in each of the other spells, as a percentage of the maximum share in the other spell. The mean value of this measure is 2401, which suggests that the maximum share in the selected spell is on average about 24 times larger than the maximum share in other spells. We also try the following criteria: (i) selecting the spell with the highest average share and (ii) selecting the spell with the highest sum of shares. All criteria result in closely similar entry and exit dates so we stick to the maximum-share criteria.

**Appendix Table S1:** Trial Components

Name	Observations
AZT/ddI Blinded Trial	91
AZT/ddC Blinded Trial	69
ddI/ddC Blinded Trial	6
AZT/ddI/ddC Blinded Trial	31
AZT/d4T trial	4
AZT/3-TC Blinded Trial	23
AZT/ddI/protease inhibitor Blinded Trial	1
AZT/protease inhibitor Blinded Trial	2
d4T/protease inhibitor Blinded Trial	1
AZT/3-TC/protease inhibitor Blinded Trial	1
Combivir/Trizivir Blinded Trial	5
Trizivir + Sustiva/Combivir + Sustiva Blinded Trial	3
Generic AIDS Vaccine Trial	1

**Appendix Table S2:** Chemical Formulae of Product Components

Component	Chemical Formula	Observations
Isoprinosine	$C_{52}H_{78}N_{10}O_{17}$	87
Ribavirin	$C_8H_{12}N_4O_5$	62
Interferons ( $\alpha$ and $\beta$ )		210
Foscarnet	$CH_3O_5P$	92
AZT	$C_{10}H_{13}N_5O_4$	7436
ddC	$C_9H_{13}N_3O_3$	1123
AL-721 egg lecithin		147
Dextran-Sulfate	$H(C_6H_{10}O_5)_xOH$	65
Acyclovir	$C_8H_{11}N_5O_3$	2550
ddI	$C_{10}H_{12}N_4O_3$	3069
d4T	$C_{10}H_{12}N_2O_4$	3807
Nevirapine	$C_{15}H_{14}N_4O$	2210
Delavirdine	$C_{22}H_{28}N_6O_3S$	176
3TC	$C_8H_{11}N_3O_3S$	5250
Saquinavir	$C_{38}H_{50}N_6O_5$	1279
Ritonavir	$C_{37}H_{48}N_6O_5S_2$	3230
Indinavir	$C_{36}H_{47}N_5O_4$	2255
Nelfinavir	$C_{32}H_{45}N_3O_4S$	1278
Kaletra	$C_{37}H_{48}N_4O_5$	1883
Abacavir	$C_{14}H_{18}N_6O$	1549
Agenerase	$C_{25}H_{35}N_3O_6S$	372
Efavirenz	$C_{14}H_9ClF_3NO_2$	3362
Adefovir	$C_8H_{12}N_5O_4P$	44
Enfuvirtide (T-20)	$C_{204}H_{301}N_{51}O_{64}$	160
Tenofovir	$C_9H_{14}N_5O_4P$	2488
Emtricitabine	$C_8H_{10}FN_3O_3S$	263
Atazanavir	$C_{38}H_{52}N_6O_7$	1583
Lexiva	$C_{25}H_{36}N_3O_9PS$	418
Etravirine	$C_{20}H_{15}BrN_6O$	155
Darunavir	$C_{27}H_{37}N_3O_7S$	315
Raltegravir	$C_{20}H_{21}FN_6O_5$	384
Ampligen	Double-stranded RNA compound	25
Peptide T	$C_{35}H_{55}N_9O_{16}$	30
DTC	$C_5H_{10}NS_2Na$	10
CD4		2
Other protease		31
Vistide (cidofovir)	$C_8H_{14}N_3O_6P$	2
Tipranavir (PNU-140690)	$C_5H_{10}NS_2Na$	30
Other Avs		158

Notes: Source: Wikipedia (November, 2014)

**Appendix Table S3:** Combination Components

Name	Combination	Instances
Combivir	AZT + 3TC	2673
Trizivir	AZT + 3TC + Abacavir	778
Truvada	Emtricitabine + Tenofovir	1933
Epzicom	Abacavir + 3TC	724
Atripla	Efavirenz + Emtricitabine + Tenofovir	968

**Appendix Table S4:** Products in the Market, Entry and Exit

Treatment Id	Treatment	Haart	Entry (visit)	Exit (visit)
3	AZT	0	6	-
13	Interferons ( $\alpha$ and/or $\beta$ ), AZT	0	7	23
9	AL-721 egg lecithin	0	7	15
34	AZT, Acyclovir	0	11	32
33	Acyclovir	0	11	32
47	AZT, Acyclovir, ddI	0	12	26
51	Acyclovir, ddI	0	12	32
14	AZT, ddC	0	12	35
39	AZT, ddI	0	12	41
46	ddI	0	12	-
69	AZT, ddC, Acyclovir, ddI	0	14	26
65	AZT, ddC, Acyclovir	0	14	31
67	AZT, ddC, ddI	0	14	23
63	ddC, Acyclovir	0	14	27
64	ddC	0	14	30
85	d4T	0	18	-
117	AZT, Acyclovir, 3TC	0	21	32
124	AZT, 3TC	0	22	-
146	Acyclovir, d4T, 3TC	0	23	32
161	AZT, 3TC, Saquinavir	1	24	42
157	d4T, 3TC	0	24	-
185	AZT, 3TC, Saquinavir, Ritonavir	1	25	-
164	AZT, Acyclovir, 3TC, Indinavir	1	25	32
171	Acyclovir, d4T, 3TC, Indinavir	1	25	32
169	AZT, 3TC, Ritonavir, Indinavir	1	25	45
214	d4T, 3TC, Ritonavir, Indinavir	1	25	45
254	d4T, 3TC, Saquinavir, Ritonavir	1	25	41
202	ddI , d4T, Indinavir	1	25	41
175	d4T, 3TC, Indinavir	1	25	48
165	AZT, 3TC, Indinavir	1	25	-
242	d4T, Nevirapine, 3TC	1	26	-
236	AZT, Nevirapine, 3TC	1	26	-
268	AZT, 3TC, Nelfinavir	1	26	-
377	ddI , d4T, Nelfinavir	1	26	43
292	d4T, 3TC, Nelfinavir	1	27	-
349	ddI , d4T, Nevirapine	1	27	-
311	ddI , 3TC, Nelfinavir	1	27	-
615	ddI , d4T, Efavirenz	1	29	48
644	3TC, Abacavir, Efavirenz	1	29	-
573	AZT, Nevirapine, 3TC, Abacavir	1	30	-
720	AZT, 3TC, Abacavir, Efavirenz	1	30	-

548	AZT, 3TC, Efavirenz	1	30	-
701	AZT, 3TC, Abacavir	0	30	-
532	d4T, 3TC, Efavirenz	1	30	44
581	Nevirapine, 3TC, Abacavir	1	31	-
782	d4T, 3TC, Kaletra	1	34	44
940	3TC, Kaletra, Abacavir	1	35	-
869	AZT, 3TC, Kaletra	1	35	-
987	AZT, 3TC, Kaletra, Abacavir	1	36	-
963	3TC, Abacavir, Efavirenz, Tenofovir	1	36	-
921	AZT, 3TC, Abacavir, Tenofovir	1	36	-
909	AZT, 3TC, Kaletra, Tenofovir	1	36	-
923	Nevirapine, 3TC, Tenofovir	1	36	46
949	3TC, Kaletra, Tenofovir	1	36	-
919	Kaletra, Efavirenz, Tenofovir	0	36	-
926	3TC, Efavirenz, Tenofovir	1	36	-
1010	AZT, 3TC, Kaletra, Abacavir, Tenofovir	1	37	-
1020	ddI , Kaletra, Tenofovir	1	37	-
976	ddI , Efavirenz, Tenofovir	1	37	-
1011	Abacavir, Efavirenz, Tenofovir	1	37	-
994	Kaletra, Abacavir, Tenofovir	1	37	-
1230	3TC, Ritonavir, Abacavir, Atazanavir	1	39	-
1071	Efavirenz, Tenofovir, Emtricitabine	1	39	-
1227	Ritonavir, Efavirenz, Tenofovir, Emtricitabine, Atazanavir	1	40	-
1245	3TC, Ritonavir, Abacavir, Tenofovir, Atazanavir	1	40	-
1303	ddI , Ritonavir, Tenofovir, Atazanavir	1	40	-
1222	Ritonavir, Tenofovir, Emtricitabine, Atazanavir	1	40	-
1128	Nevirapine, Tenofovir, Emtricitabine	1	40	-
1253	Kaletra, Tenofovir, Emtricitabine	1	41	-
1342	Ritonavir, Tenofovir, Emtricitabine, Lexiva	1	42	-
10006		0	6	16
10026		0	26	46
10027		0	27	45
10028		0	28	45
10030		1	30	43
10031		0	31	-
10035		0	35	49
10037		1	37	-
10038		0	38	-
10040		0	40	-
10041		1	41	-
10042		1	42	-
10043		1	43	-
10046		1	46	-

10048	1	48	-
10049	1	49	-

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## B Estimation Appendix

### B.1 $k$ -means Clustering Algorithm

We implement the following version of the  $k$ -means algorithm. At every period  $t$ :

1. We select the products that have not yet being applied the *exit switching* rule. In other words, we select products that are still available for people to swith into at period  $t$ . Denote this set of products available for clustering at  $t$ ,  $\mathcal{A}_t$ .

2. We re-scale the characteristics of all products available for clustering at  $t$ . In order to do this we compute

$$\tilde{\theta}^r = \frac{\theta^r}{\max_{\delta \in \mathcal{A}_t} |\delta^r|}, \text{ for } r = h, x$$

Therefore, by construction  $\tilde{\theta}^r \in [-1, 1]$ .

3. We choose the first  $k$  centroids using  $k$  initial  $\tilde{\theta}$ 's in  $\mathcal{A}_t$  randomly selected.
4. We allocate all remaining points in  $\mathcal{A}_t$  sequentially. At each step the point selected is the one that is closest to one of the existing clusters. This point is then allocated to the correspondent cluster and the centroid of the cluster is updated. This process is repeated until all points are allocated to a cluster.
5. We undertake a reallocation step in which, taken the centroids as given, all points are allocated to their closest centroid.
6. We calculate the value of (8) for the current allocation.
7. We repeat the process 200 times using different random initial  $\tilde{\theta}$ 's in  $\mathcal{A}_t$ . The allocation with the lowest value of (8) is chosen. When simulating clusters in estimation we only repeat the process 50 times to speed up the process.

### B.2 Product Characteristics

We estimate product characteristics using data on individual treatment usage and subsequent reports of health and ailments. Our estimation equations mimic equations (19) and (20), which individuals use to form expectations over their health and ailments conditional on their choice. The key difference between equations (19) and (20) and our estimation equations is that here our aim is to obtain characteristics of each individual treatment.

Let  $\delta_{rit}$  be an indicator that treatment  $r$  was used by individual  $i$  at time  $t$ . The characteristics of treatment  $r$  are denoted

$$\theta_r = \{\theta_r^x, \theta_r^h\} \in \mathbb{R}^2 \quad (28)$$

The components of  $\theta_r$  are estimated as the coefficients of  $\delta_{rit}$  in the health and no-ailments regressions

$$h_{it} = \sum_{m=0}^5 \alpha_m^h h_{it-1}^m + \sum_r \theta_r^h \delta_{rit} + \epsilon_{it} \quad (29)$$

$$\Pr [x_{it} = 1 | \cdot] = \frac{\exp \left( \sum_{m=0}^5 \alpha_m^x h_{it-1}^m + \sum_r \theta_r^x \delta_{rit} \right)}{1 + \exp(\cdot)} \quad (30)$$

### B.3 GMM Estimation Algorithm

Using the fact that we observe the underlying stochastic process that generates the stochastic process of cluster characteristics we can write the moment condition in equation (25) can be written as

$$\mathbb{E} \left\{ w(z_{it}) \otimes \begin{bmatrix} \vdots \\ \ln \left( \frac{p_{oit}(z_{it})}{p_{jit}(z_{it})} \right) + \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{P}} [y_{jit}] - \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{P}} [y_{oit}] \\ + \sum_{s=1}^{T^*} \beta^s P_j^{o(s-1)}(z_{it}) \\ \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{P}} \left[ D_{it+s}(z_{it+s}) \sum_{k \in C_{t+s}} p_{kit}(z_{it+s}) [y_{kit+s}(z_{it+s}) + \psi_{kit+s}(z_{it+s})] \middle| \cdot, j, \mathcal{P}_t \right] \\ - \sum_{s=1}^{T^*} \beta^s P_o^{o(s-1)}(z_{it}) \\ \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{P}} \left[ D_{it+s}(z_{it+s}) \sum_{k \in C_{t+s}} p_{kit}(z_{it+s}) [y_{kit+s}(z_{it+s}) + \psi_{kit+s}(z_{it+s})] \middle| \cdot, o, \mathcal{P}_t \right] \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix} \right\} = 0 \quad (31)$$

Equation (31) is crucial for our simulation estimation method explained below. The key fact is that we observe the characteristics of the underlying process of product evolution and we are then able to use it to generate the stochastic evolution of clusters. We undertake simulation in order to obtain the value of

$$\mathbb{E}_z \left[ \sum_{s=1}^{T^*} \beta^s P_j^{o(s-1)}(z_{it}) \times \left[ D_{it+s}(z_{it+s}) \sum_{k \in C_{t+s}} p_{kit+s}(z_{it+s}) [y_{kit+s}(z_{it+s}) + \psi_{kit+s}(z_{it+s})] \middle| z_{it}, d_{jit} = 1, S_{it}^{(s-1)} = 1, d_i^o, \mathcal{P}_t \right] \right] \quad (32)$$

for each individual  $i$  and choice  $j$  at every period  $t$ . Let  $NS$  denote the number of simulated technology paths for each individual at every period and let the superscript  $ns$  indicate that a quantity has being simulated. For individual  $i$  and decision  $j$  at period  $t$  we write the

simulated counterpart of equation (32) as

$$\begin{aligned}
& \frac{1}{NS} \sum_{ns} \sum_{s=1}^{T^*} \beta^s P_j^{o(s-1),ns} (z_{it}) D_{it+s} (z_{it+s}^{ns,j}) \sum_{k \in C_{t+s}^{ns,j}} d_{kit+s}^{ns,j} (z_{it+s}^{ns,j}) [y_{kit+s} (z_{it+s}^{ns,j}) + \psi_{kit+s} (z_{it+s}^{ns,j})] \\
&= \frac{1}{NS} \sum_{ns} \sum_{s=1}^{T^*} \beta^s \left( \prod_{\tau=1}^s D_{it+\tau} (z_{it+\tau}^{ns,j}) \right) \sum_{k \in C_{t+s}^{ns,j}} d_{kit+s}^{ns,j} (z_{it+s}^{ns,j}) [y_{kit+s} (z_{it+s}^{ns,j}) + \psi_{kit+s} (z_{it+s}^{ns,j})] \quad (33)
\end{aligned}$$

For a given vector of parameters of the utility function, the above simulation must be undertaken  $NS$  times for each individual  $i$  available at period  $t$ , and for all  $t$ , and for  $J-1$  choices as well as for choice  $o$ , which means it must be repeated at least  $NS \times T \times N \times J$ . Further, notice that within each individual simulation we must simulate  $N$  optimal paths, one for every person, in order to obtain the aggregate behavior. In other words, even though we simulate only  $NS \times T \times N \times J$  technology paths, we simulate  $NS \times T \times N \times J \times N$  individual paths. Given our numbers we will be simulating at most  $NS \times 33 \times 1669 \times 6 = NS \times 330,462$  technology paths of length  $T^*$  and  $NS \times 33 \times 1669 \times 6 \times 1669 = NS \times 551,541,078$  individual paths of length  $T^*$ . Relying on Hotz et al. (1994) we could set  $NS = 1$  and still obtain consistency. We set  $NS = 10$  after trying different values of  $NS$  for robustness.

The sample moment conditions will then be

$$\frac{1}{\sum_i \sum_t \delta_{it}} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^T \delta_{it} w(z_{it}) \otimes \begin{bmatrix} \vdots \\ \ln \left( \frac{p_{oit}(z_{it})}{p_{jit}(z_{it})} \right) + y_{jit} - y_{oit} \\ + \frac{1}{NS} \sum_{ns} \sum_{s=1}^{T^*} \beta^s \left( \prod_{\tau=1}^s D_{it+\tau} (z_{it+\tau}^{ns,j}) \right) \times \\ \sum_{k \in C_{t+s}^{ns,j}} d_{kit+s}^{ns,j} (z_{it+s}^{ns,j}) [y_{kit+s} (z_{it+s}^{ns,j}) + \psi_{kit+s} (z_{it+s}^{ns,j})] \\ - \frac{1}{NS} \sum_{ns} \sum_{s=1}^{T^*} \beta^s \left( \prod_{\tau=1}^s D_{it+\tau} (z_{it+\tau}^{ns,o}) \right) \times \\ \sum_{k \in C_{t+s}^{ns,j}} d_{kit+s}^{ns,o} (z_{it+s}^{ns,o}) [y_{kit+s} (z_{it+s}^{ns,o}) + \psi_{kit+s} (z_{it+s}^{ns,o})] \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix} = 0 \quad (34)$$

where  $\delta_{it}$  is an indicator of availability of individual  $i$  at period  $t$ . Estimation follows the simulation strategy described below. Simulation will be undertaken in order to obtain

$$\sum_{s=1}^{T^*} \beta^s P_j^{o(s-1)} (z_{it}) \mathbb{E}_z \left[ D_{it+s} (z_{it+s}) \sum_{k \in C_{t+s}} p_{ikt+s} (z_{it+s}) [y_{ikt+s} (z_{it+s}) + \psi_{ikt+s} (z_{it+s})] \middle| z_{it}, d_{jit} = 1, S_{it}^{(s-1)} = 1, d_i^o \right] \quad (35)$$

and

$$\sum_{s=1}^{T^*} \beta^s P_o^{o(s-1)}(z_{it}) \mathbb{E}_z \left[ D_{it+s}(z_{it+s}) \sum_{k \in C_{t+s}} p_{ikt+s}(z_{it+s}) [y_{ikt+s}(z_{it+s}) + \psi_{ikt+s}(z_{it+s})] \right] \Big| z_{it}, d_{iot} = 1, S_{it}^{(s-1)} = 1, d_i^o \quad (36)$$

for each individual  $i$  at every period  $t$ . Let the superscript  $ns$  indicate that a quantity has been simulated. Also let subscript  $j$  denote the decision made at time  $t$  to be compared against the base choice  $o$ .

For individual  $i$  at period  $t$  who chose  $j$ , the simulation algorithm to obtain (35) entails the following steps for each simulated path  $ns$  (again, we set the number of simulated paths for every data point  $(i, t)$  at  $NS = 1$ ):

1. **Number of new products.** If  $s = 1$ , define  $Q_{t+s-1}^{ns} \equiv Q_t$ . Using  $Q_{t+s-1}^{ns}$  we draw number of new products,  $New_{t+s}^{ns}$ , using a negative binomial process. First we draw

$$\mu_{t+s}^* \sim \text{Gamma}(1/\alpha, \alpha\mu_{t+s})$$

where

$$\mu_{t+s} = \beta_0^N + \beta_1^N Q_{t+s-1}$$

Then we draw

$$New_{t+s}^{ns} |_{\mu^*} \sim \text{Poisson}(\mu_{t+s}^*)$$

$(\alpha, \beta_0^N, \beta_1^N)$  are parameters estimated in a first stage.

2. **Characteristics of new products.** If  $New_{t+s}^{ns} > 0$ , for each simulated new product we obtain simulated product characteristics. Consistent with our model, new products at  $t + s$  are characterized by simulated realizations of the bivariate random vector

$$\omega_{t+s-1} + \nu_{t+s-1} \quad (37)$$

where  $\omega_{t+s-1}$  is the centroid at  $t + s - 1$ ,  $\nu_{t+s-1} \sim F_\nu$  and  $F_\nu$  is our innovations distribution which is estimated non parametrically.

As a by-product of steps 1 and 2 we obtain  $Q_{t+s}^{ns}$  using equation (5).

3. **Exit.**

↪ *Overall exit rule.* If the ratio of people consuming product  $k$  (either by staying or switching) relative to the number of people consuming a market product falls

bellow  $\tilde{\sigma}_2$  during the last 2 consecutive periods (i.e.  $t+s-1, t+s-2$ ), the product is withdrawn from the market and cannot be consumed at any  $\tau \geq t+s$ .  $\tilde{\sigma}_2$  is chosen as the minimum conditional share observed in the data.

$\hookrightarrow$  *Switching exit rule.* If the product satisfies the overall exit rule or if the ratio of people switching and being assigned product  $k$  relative to the number of people switching falls bellow  $\tilde{\sigma}_1$  during the last 3 consecutive periods (i.e.  $t+s-1, t+s-2, t+s-3$ ), the product is no longer available for switchers and therefore cannot be used to form clusters at any  $\tau \geq t+s$ .  $\tilde{\sigma}_1$  is chosen as the minimum conditional share observed in the data. These products may still be used by “staying” individuals who consumed the product last period.

Old products minus exits plus simulated new products yields the simulated set of products in period  $t+s$ ,  $\mathcal{P}_{t+s}^{ns}$ .

4. **Clusters.** From the simulated set of products  $\mathcal{P}_{t+s}^{ns}$ , we select those products that can be used for clustering and along with the grouping algorithm we obtain simulated clusters  $\mathcal{G}_{t+s}^{ns}$ . We then compute characteristics for the simulated clusters,  $W_{t+s}^{ns}$ .
5. **Centroid.** If  $s=1$  define  $\mathcal{P}_{t+s-1}^{ns} \equiv \mathcal{P}_t$ . Using the characteristics of products in  $\mathcal{P}_{t+s-1}^{ns}$ , unconditional choice probabilities ( $\mathbb{E}_i [p_{jit+s-1}(z_{it})]$ ), within-cluster product weights at  $t+s-1$ , and  $t+s-1$  shares of products conditional on staying, we compute the simulated centroid  $\omega_{t+s}^{ns}$  using equation (1).

Steps 1 through 5 provide the aggregate part of the simulated state,  $z_{t+s}^{\mathcal{P},ns}$ . Denote the future choice set induced by the simulated evolution of products as  $\mathcal{C}_{t+s}^{ns}$ .

6. **Future state for  $i$ .** **(i)** If  $s=1$ , define  $h_{jit+s-1}^{ns}$  as the observed  $h_{jit+s-1}$ . If  $s > 1$ , draw  $\epsilon_{it+s-1}^{h,ns}$  from the non parametric distribution of  $\epsilon^h$ ; then, using  $d_{it+s-1}^{ns}$ , and when necessary, the realization of the within cluster treatment assigned at  $t+s-1$ , we compute simulated health at the beginning of period  $t+s$ ,  $h_{jit+s-1}^{ns}$ , using equation (29). If  $d_{it+s-1}^{ns}$  involves the trial alternative, trial-product characteristics for computing equation (29) are drawn from the trial distribution at  $t+s-1$ ,  $F_{\theta|\omega_{t+s-1}}$ ; which is equivalent to using equation (37) and the innovations distribution,  $F_\nu$ . **(ii)** We draw a simulated out-of-pocket payment shock  $\epsilon_{it+s}^{o,ns} \sim N(0, \sigma_o^2)$ . **(iii)** We draw a simulated labor state  $l_{it+s}^{ns}$  using equation (17). **(iv)** We compute deterministic state variables for  $i$ .

7. **Future state for all  $i' \neq i$ .** (i) If  $s = 1$ , define  $h_{i't+s-1}^{ns}$  as the observed  $h_{i't+s-1}$ . If  $1 < s < T^*$ , draw  $\epsilon_{i't+s-1}^{h,ns}$  from the non parametric distribution of  $\epsilon^h$ . Then, using  $d_{i't+s-1}^{ns}$ , and when necessary, the realization of the within cluster treatment assigned at  $t+s-1$ , we compute simulated health at the beginning of period  $t+s$ ,  $h_{i't+s-1}^{ns}$ , using equation (29). If  $d_{i't+s-1}^{ns}$  involves the trial alternative, trial-product characteristics for computing equation (29) are drawn from the trial distribution at  $t+s-1$ ,  $F_{\theta|\omega_{t+s-1}}$ . We have deliberately written  $h_{i't+s-1}^{ns}$  instead of  $h_{i'jt+s-1}^{ns}$  as it is explained below. (ii) We draw a simulated labor state  $l_{i't+s}^{ns}$  using equation (17). (iii) We compute deterministic state variables for  $i'$ .

Steps 6 and 7 provide the relevant pieces of the individual-specific part of the simulated state,  $z_{jit+s}^{o,ns}$  for  $i$  and  $z_{i't+s}^{o,ns}$  for all  $i' \neq i$ .

8. **Probability of Survival up to  $t+s-1$ .** If  $s = 1$ , by definition,  $P_j^{o(s-1)}(z_{it}) = 1$  for all  $i$  available at  $t$ . If  $s > 1$ , using  $z_{jit+s-1}^{o,ns}$ , and  $P_j^{o(s-2),ns}(z_{it})$  we obtain  $P_j^{o(s-1),ns}(z_{it})$  using

$$\begin{aligned} P_j^{o(s-1),ns}(z_{it}) &= \prod_{\tau=1}^{s-1} D_{it+\tau}(z_{it+\tau}^{ns}) \\ &= D_{it+s-1}(z_{jit+s-1}^{ns}) P_j^{o(s-2),ns}(z_{it}) \end{aligned} \quad (38)$$

9. **CCPs and simulated choice for  $i$ .** Using  $z_{t+s}^{\mathcal{P},ns}$ ,  $z_{jit+s}^{o,ns}$ , and equations (41), (43), and (42), we compute simulated  $t+s$  ccps,  $p_{ikt+s}^{ns}(z_{jit+s}^{ns})$ , for every alternative  $k \in C_{t+s}^{ns}$ . Then, using the simulated ccps we draw a decision  $d_{it+s}^{ns}(z_{jit+s}^{ns})$  for  $i$ .
10. **CCPs and simulated choice for all  $i' \neq i$ .** Using  $z_{t+s}^{\mathcal{P},ns}$ ,  $z_{i't+s}^{o,ns}$  for all  $i' \neq i$ , and equations (41), (43), and (42), we compute simulated  $t+s$  ccps,  $p_{i'kt+s}^{ns}(z_{i't+s}^{ns})$ , for every alternative  $k \in C_{t+s}^{ns}$ . Then, using the simulated ccps we draw a decision  $d_{i't+s}^{ns}(z_{i't+s}^{ns})$  for all  $i' \neq i$ .
11. **Static payoff for  $i$ .** (i) We compute  $\bar{m}_{it+s}^s = X_{it+s}^{m,ns} \theta^m + \nu_i^m$  using equation (15). Even though individuals know their idiosyncratic shocks in the income equation,  $\epsilon_{it}^m$ , we do not need to simulate these as they are iid and have mean zero and enter linearly in the flow utility, which will result in them averaging out to zero in the moment condition.

(ii) Using the simulated choice  $d_{it+s}^{ms} (z_{jit+s}^{ns})$  we compute expected simulated out-of-pocket payments using

$$o_{it+s} (d_{it+s}^{ms}) = \begin{cases} o_{it+s}^{*,ns} & \text{if } o_{it+s}^{*,ns} > 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } o_{it+s}^{*,ns} \leq 0 \end{cases}$$

where

$$o_{it+s}^{*,ns} (d_{it+s}^{ms}) = X_{it+s}^{o,ns} (d_{it+s}^{ms}) \theta^o + \epsilon_{it+s}^{o,ns}$$

and  $X_{it+s}^{o,ns} (d_{it+s}^{ms})$  are given in equation (16). Hence

$$\mathbb{E} [o_{it+s} (d_{it+s}^{ms}) | d_{it+s}^{ms}] = \Phi (X_{it+s}^{o,ns} (d_{it+s}^{ms}) \theta^o / \sigma^o) X_{it+s}^{o,ns} (d_{it+s}^{ms}) \theta^o + \sigma^o \phi (X_{it+s}^{o,ns} (d_{it+s}^{ms}) \theta^o / \sigma^o)$$

(iii) We compute the expected probability of no-ailments as

$$\mathbb{E} [x_{it+s} | d_{it+s}^{ms}]$$

using equation (19) and the relevant distribution: cluster, trial, or degenerate. Notice that here we exploit again the fact that we observe the underlying stochastic process. Whenever the choice is a cluster, we use the within cluster weights. (iv) Using above components and  $i$ 's simulated decision we compute flow payoffs  $y_{it+s}^{ns} (z_{it+s}^{ns}, d_{it+s}^{ms})$  using equation (13). (v) We compute the probability of survival from  $t + s - 1$  into  $t + s$ ,  $D_{it+s} (z_{it+s}^{ns})$ , using equation (21) and the term  $\psi_{it+s} (z_{it+s}^{ns}, d_{it+s}^{ms})$  using equation (27).

## 12. Repeat all steps above until $s = T^*$ .

In order to obtain all other simulated counterparts of (35) for individual  $i$  at period  $t$  we do not repeat all the steps above. Instead, we use the same simulated aggregate evolution of the market and repeat only those steps involving individual  $i$ 's path conditional on choice  $j' \neq j$  at  $t$ ; this is the reason why we deliberately write  $h_{i't+s-1}^{ns}$  instead of  $h_{i'jt+s-1}^{ns}$  for all  $i \neq i'$ , as their simulated individual paths do not depend on  $i$ 's decision at period  $t$ . We abstain from generating a path of product innovation following counterfactual choice  $k$  by individual  $i$  as the impact of his decision at period  $t$  on the overall aggregate evolution of the market is negligible.

When simulating the path following counterfactual choice  $j'$  we need counterfactual health when  $s = 1$ ,  $h_{ij't+s-1}^{ns}$ ; for this we need to compute the realized residuals of the

health equation at  $t$

$$\hat{\epsilon}_{it}^h = h_{it} - \sum_{m=0}^5 \alpha_m^h h_{it-1}^m - \sum_r \theta_r^h \delta_{it-1r}$$

Then, using the realized residual  $\hat{\epsilon}_{it}^h$  and equation (29) we obtain  $h_{ij't}^{ns}$ . When individual  $i$  is in a trial in period  $t$  we do not observe the characteristics of the trial ex post; hence, we draw a health shock as well as trial characteristics and compute future simulated health,  $h_{ij}^{ns}$ .

**Current period payoffs.** On the one hand, in order to obtain  $y_{jit}$  we need  $\mathbb{E}_j [x_{jit+s}]$ . Here, when  $j$  corresponds to a cluster alternative, we exploit again the fact that we observe the underlying stochastic process and use the within cluster weights. On the other hand, in order to obtain counterfactual  $y_{ikt}$  we need the realized error term of the out-of-pocket payment equation at  $t$  given by

$$\hat{\epsilon}_{it}^o = o_{jit}^* - X_{jit}^o \theta^o$$

However, we only observe  $o_{jit}^*$  if  $o_{jit}^* > 0$ . Hence, if  $o_{jit}^* \leq 0$ , we need to draw a simulated error  $\epsilon_{it}^{o,ns}$  from a truncated normal conditional on

$$\epsilon_{it}^{o,ns} \leq -X_{jit}^o \theta^o$$

The sample simulated counterpart of (35) is

$$\frac{1}{NS} \sum_{ns} \sum_{s=1}^{T^*} \beta^s P_j^{o(s-1),ns} (z_{it}) D_{it+s} \left( z_{it+s}^{ns,j} \right) \sum_{k \in C_{t+s}^{ns,j}} d_{ikt+s}^{ns,j} \left( z_{it+s}^{ns,j} \right) \left[ y_{ikt+s} \left( z_{it+s}^{ns,j} \right) + \psi_{ikt+s} \left( z_{it+s}^{ns,j} \right) \right] \quad (39)$$

One potential issue with our simulation algorithm is that in reality individuals die and others become potential consumers. This two phenomena are likely to affect the aggregate joint distribution of individual characteristics and therefore the ccps and the evolution of the market. In order to control for death when computing  $i$ 's continuation value we could simulate death conditional on optimal behavior for all  $i' \neq i$ , i.e. some people will leave the sample in the simulated paths. However, we would also need to create people to be introduced into the market. We decide to simulate neither people into the absorbing state nor the stream of people into the sample. Instead, we condition on the aggregate distribution of characteristics at any period  $t$  in order to simulate ahead and on optimal future behavior.

Also, a related issue is that our sample is refreshed at least once as new subjects are surveyed. Figures not shown here present no special effect of this refreshing in terms of

the aggregate ccps suggesting that the aggregate distribution of characteristics of the new surveyed people matches that of the surveyed individuals at the time.

## B.4 Estimator

We use a GMM estimator to obtain our structural parameters. Define  $B$  as the  $K$ –dimensional vector of parameters. Following Hotz et al. (1994) we want to obtain the parameter vector that solves

$$\left( (NT)^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^T \delta_{it} w(z_{it}) \otimes \bar{v}_{it}(z_{it}, B) \right)' W_n \left( (NT)^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^T \delta_{it} w(z_{it}) \otimes \bar{v}_{it}(z_{it}, B) \right) \quad (40)$$

where

$$\bar{v}_{it}(z_{it}, B) = \begin{bmatrix} \vdots \\ \ln \left( \frac{p_{oit}(z_{it})}{p_{jit}(z_{it})} \right) + y_{jit} - y_{oit} \\ + \frac{1}{NS} \sum_{ns} \sum_{s=1}^{T^*} \beta^s \left( \prod_{\tau=1}^s D_{it+\tau} \left( z_{it+\tau}^{ns,j} \right) \right) \times \\ \sum_{k \in C_{t+s}^{ns,j}} d_{kit+s}^{ns,j} \left( z_{it+s}^{ns,j} \right) \left[ y_{kit+s} \left( z_{it+s}^{ns,j} \right) + \psi_{kit+s} \left( z_{it+s}^{ns,j} \right) \right] \\ - \frac{1}{NS} \sum_{ns} \sum_{s=1}^{T^*} \beta^s \left( \prod_{\tau=1}^s D_{it+\tau} \left( z_{it+\tau}^{ns,o} \right) \right) \times \\ \sum_{k \in C_{t+s}^{ns,o}} d_{kit+s}^{ns,o} \left( z_{it+s}^{ns,o} \right) \left[ y_{kit+s} \left( z_{it+s}^{ns,o} \right) + \psi_{kit+s} \left( z_{it+s}^{ns,o} \right) \right] \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix}$$

and  $W_n$  is a square weighting matrix. Using the linear structure of our utility function we collect and factor terms in order to write the  $j$ th component of the vector  $\bar{v}_{it}(z_{it}, B)$  as the linear form

$$\tilde{y}_{jit} - \tilde{x}'_{jit} B$$

Define  $Y$  as the  $[(J-1)NT \times 1]$ –dimensional vector that stacks all  $\tilde{y}_{jit}$ ,  $X$  the matrix of dimensions  $[(J-1)NT \times K]$  that stacks all  $\tilde{x}_{jit}$ . Define  $Z$  as the  $[NT \times R]$ –dimensional matrix the columns of which contain the  $R$  instruments orthogonal to the difference in alternative representations—which renders  $W_n$  as a  $(J-1)R$ –dimensional square matrix.

Finally, let  $\mathbf{I}_{[J-1]}$  be a  $(J - 1)$ -dimensional identity matrix

$$Y = \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{y}_{1,1,1} \\ \tilde{y}_{1,1,2} \\ \vdots \\ \tilde{y}_{1,N,T-1} \\ \tilde{y}_{1,N,T} \\ \vdots \\ \tilde{y}_{J-1,1,1} \\ \tilde{y}_{J-1,1,2} \\ \vdots \\ \tilde{y}_{J-1,N,T-1} \\ \tilde{y}_{J-1,N,T} \end{bmatrix}, \quad X = \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{x}_{1,1,1,1} & \cdots & \tilde{x}_{1,1,1,K} \\ \tilde{x}_{1,1,2,1} & \cdots & \tilde{x}_{1,1,2,K} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \tilde{x}_{1,N,T-1,1} & \cdots & \tilde{x}_{1,N,T-1,K} \\ \tilde{x}_{1,N,T,1} & \cdots & \tilde{x}_{1,N,T,K} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \tilde{x}_{J-1,1,1,1} & \cdots & \tilde{x}_{J-1,1,1,K} \\ \tilde{x}_{J-1,1,2,1} & \cdots & \tilde{x}_{J-1,1,2,K} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \tilde{x}_{J-1,N,T-1,1} & \cdots & \tilde{x}_{J-1,N,T-1,K} \\ \tilde{x}_{J-1,N,T,1} & \cdots & \tilde{x}_{J-1,N,T,K} \end{bmatrix}, \quad Z = \begin{bmatrix} w(z_{11})_1 & \cdots & w(z_{11})_R \\ w(z_{12})_1 & \cdots & w(z_{12})_R \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ w(z_{NT})_1 & \cdots & w(z_{NT})_R \end{bmatrix}$$

And define

$$\tilde{Z} = \mathbf{I}_{[J-1]} \otimes Z$$

Then we can write the objective function in (40) as

$$\left( (NT)^{-1} \tilde{Z}' (Y - XB) \right)' W_n \left( (NT)^{-1} \tilde{Z}' (Y - XB) \right)$$

From where we can obtain a close form solution for  $\hat{B}$  as the optimal GMM estimator. It entails a first stage estimator given by

$$\hat{B}^{1S} = \left( X' \tilde{Z} \tilde{Z}' X \right)^{-1} \left( X' \tilde{Z} \tilde{Z}' Y \right)$$

and a second stage estimator given by

$$\hat{B}^{2S} = \left( X' \tilde{Z} \hat{S}^{-1} \tilde{Z}' X \right)^{-1} \left( X' \tilde{Z} \hat{S}^{-1} \tilde{Z}' Y \right)$$

where

$$\hat{S} = \frac{1}{N^*} \tilde{Z}' D \tilde{Z}$$

and  $D$  is the  $N(J-1) \times N(J-1)$  diagonal matrix with elements  $\hat{u}_{jit}^2 = \left( y_{jit} - x'_{jit} \hat{B}^{1S} \right)^2$  in its diagonal. The variance-covariance matrix of the second stage estimator is

$$\hat{V}^{2S} = N^* \left( X' \tilde{Z} \hat{S}^{-1} \tilde{Z}' X \right)^{-1}$$

and

$$N^* = \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{j=1}^{J-1} 1 \{ \text{Decision } j \text{ available for } i \text{ at } t \}$$

which accounts for the fact that some individuals cannot stay in their lagged treatments at some periods (for instance, if lagged decision was no treatment or trial treatment).

## B.5 CCP Estimation and Fit

The probability that an individual chooses one of the alternatives depends on the elements of his state. As such, the CCPs needed to simulate choices in our estimation method are functions of individual-specific variables as well as market-level variables.

Individuals decide between one of  $\mathcal{G}$  clusters, yesterday's product (if any), a trial product, and no product. Let  $W_{jit}$  be the characteristics describing alternative  $j$  for individual  $i$  at period  $t$ : mean health, mean ailments, and the variance matrix. Let  $W_{jit}W_{jit}$  denote a vector of interactions between the elements of  $W_{jit}$ . Let  $\tilde{x}_{it}$  and  $\tilde{z}_{it}$  be subsets of the individual-specific components of the state.<sup>41</sup> Let  $\omega_t W_{jit}$  denote a vector of interactions between the centroid and the elements of  $W_{jit}$ . Similarly, let  $W_{jit}\tilde{z}_{it}$  be a vector of interactions between the components of  $W_{jit}$  and individual-specific state components and let  $\omega_t W_{jit}\tilde{z}_{it}$  be defined in a similar fashion. Finally, let  $\tilde{\mathcal{F}}_t$  denote a set of non parametric moments describing the joint distribution of aggregate characteristics,  $\mathcal{F}_t$ .<sup>42</sup>

For each of the alternatives, the CCPs are expressed as follows:

*Cluster ccps* ( $j = 1, \dots, \mathcal{G}$ )

$$p_{jit} = \frac{\exp\left(\gamma_0 \tilde{x}_{it} + \beta_0 W_{jit} + \beta_1 W_{jit}W_{jit} + \beta_2 \omega_t W_{jit} + \beta_3 W_{jit}\tilde{z}_{it} + \beta_4 \omega_t W_{jit}\tilde{z}_{it} + \beta_5 W_{jit}\tilde{\mathcal{F}}_t\right)}{1 + \sum_{k=1}^{\mathcal{G}+2} \exp(\cdot)} \quad (41)$$

$\gamma_0$  is constant across clusters and over time. For a given cluster  $j$  and period  $t$ ,  $W_{jit}$  is in fact constant across individuals so  $W_{jit} = W_{jt}$ .

*Trial ccps* ( $j = \mathcal{G} + 1$ )

$$p_{jit} = \frac{\exp\left(\gamma_j \tilde{x}_{it} + \beta_0 W_{jit} + \beta_1 W_{jit}W_{jit} + \beta_3 W_{jit}\tilde{z}_{it} + \beta_5 W_{jit}\tilde{\mathcal{F}}_t\right)}{1 + \sum_{k=1}^{\mathcal{G}+2} \exp(\cdot)} \quad (42)$$

For the trial alternative,  $W_{jit}$  is constant across individuals so  $W_{G+1it} = W_{G+1t}$ . In fact, two

<sup>41</sup>  $\tilde{z}_{it}$  includes  $h_{it-1}$ ,  $a_{it-1}$ ,  $b_i$ ,  $l_{it}$  while  $\tilde{x}_{it}$  includes a constant,  $a_{it-1}$ ,  $b_i$ .

<sup>42</sup> We specify these moments as shares of people with different sets of characteristics.

of the components of  $W_{jt}$  are  $\omega_{t-1} + \mu_\nu$ , where  $\mu_\nu$  is the mean of the innovations distribution. Therefore, to avoid collinearity we do not include terms  $\omega_t W_{jt}$  and  $\omega_t W_{jt} \tilde{z}_{it}$  in the trials ccps.

*Staying ccps* ( $j = \mathcal{G} + 2$ )

$$p_{jit} = \frac{\exp\left(\gamma_j \tilde{x}_{it} + \beta_0 W_{jit} + \beta_1 W_{jit} W_{jit} + \beta_2 \omega_t W_{jit} + \beta_3 W_{jit} \tilde{z}_{it} + \beta_4 \omega_t W_{jit} \tilde{z}_{it} + \beta_5 W_{jit} \tilde{F}_t\right)}{1 + \sum_{k=1}^{\mathcal{G}+2} \exp(\cdot)} \quad (43)$$

When individuals choose to stick to their previous product  $W_{\mathcal{G}+1it}$  becomes heterogeneous—individuals may have consumed different products last period.

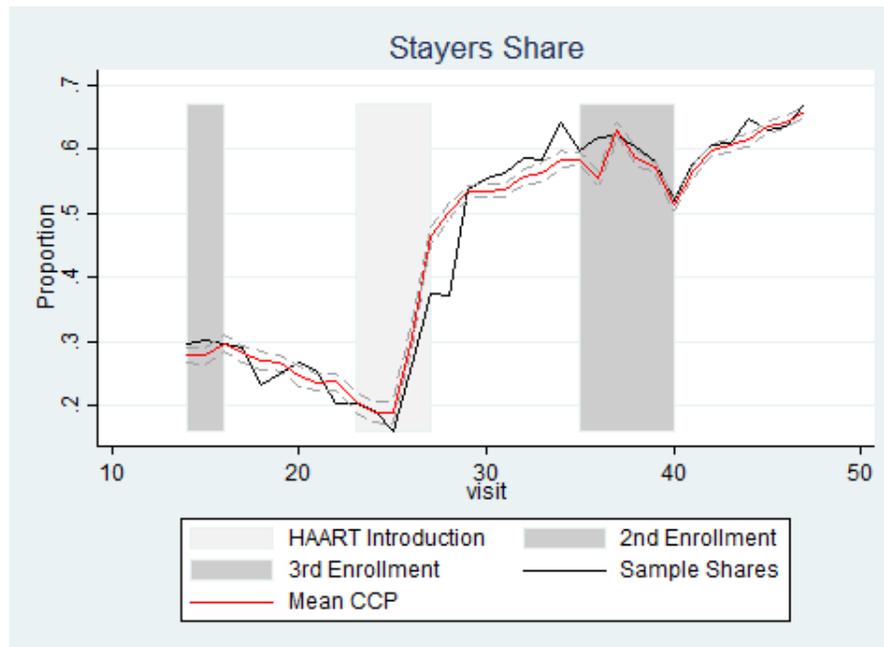
*No product ccps* ( $j = 0$ )

$$p_{jit} = 1 - \sum_{k=1}^{\mathcal{G}+2} p_{kit} \quad (44)$$

Even though the characteristics of the choice set are non stationary, by interacting our time-varying regressors  $\tilde{z}_{it}$  with the characteristics of the choice for individual  $i$ ,  $W_{jit}$ , we are able to control for the state of the world inside the ccps. As a consequence of this we do not have to run period-specific logits and we can have ccps for any simulated world as long as our observed worlds cover the space of possible worlds reasonably well. We also include parameters that are invariant to the state of the technology,  $\gamma$ , which capture stationary taste differences between staying in current choice, trying a new market product, going to a trial, or not consuming anything. Also, since all clusters correspond to the action of “trying a market product” we impose  $\gamma_j = \gamma_{j'} = \gamma_0$  for any  $j, j' = 1, \dots, \mathcal{G}$ .

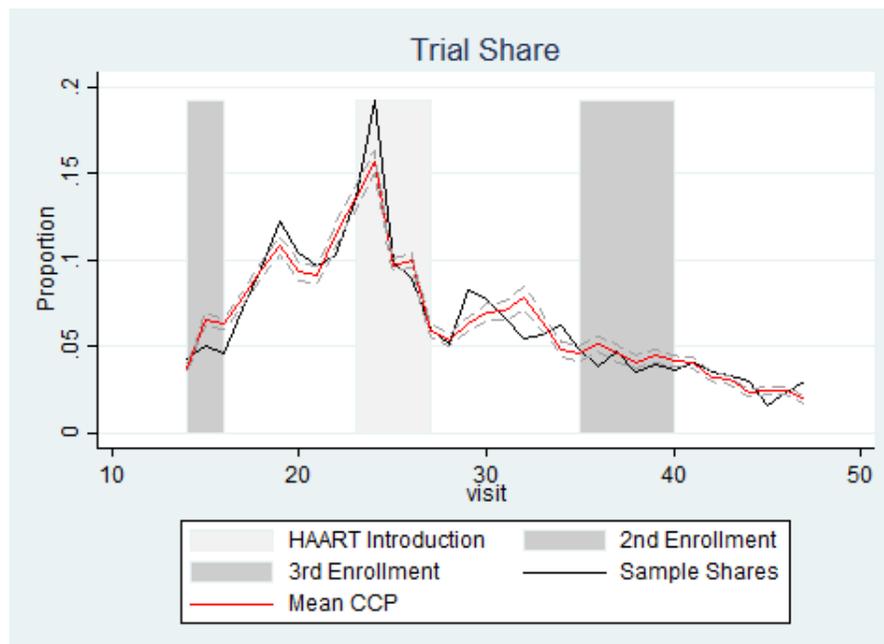
Figures S1, S2, and S3 display the mean predicted conditional choice probability using equations (41), (43), (42) and (44) over time against the correspondent share of the population who chose the alternative. Our ccps map the choices in the data relatively well. In fact, we further explore the fit of our ccp estimates comparing the relative shares that clusters received in reality against our the predictions from our estimated ccps. We do this by ranking the three clusters at every period by the share they received and comparing this ranking with the ranking obtained from our estimated ccps. A cross tabulation of these rankings—not shown here—suggests that the predicted ranks match the real ranks in more than 79 percent of the periods. In fact, the lowest-ranking cluster matches the predicted lowest-ranking cluster 88 percent of the times.

**Appendix Figure S1: CCPs Goodness of fit: Stayers**



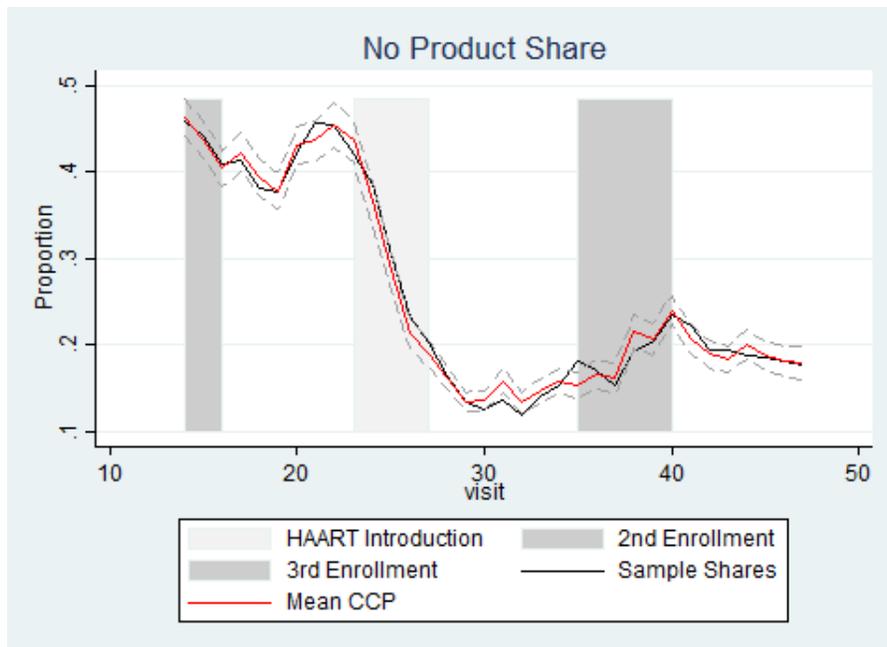
Notes: Figure shows the average estimated conditional choice probability against the share of people choosing the alternative. Dashed lines represent 95 percent confidence intervals around the predicted CCPs. Figure highlights three periods that are of special relevance in the period we study. It depicts periods during which enrollment into the sample was undertaken and more importantly, it displays the period in which products belonging to the HAART family were introduced.

**Appendix Figure S2: CCPs Goodness of fit: Trial**



Notes: Figure shows the average estimated conditional choice probability against the share of people choosing the alternative. Dashed lines represent 95 percent confidence intervals around the predicted CCPs. Figure highlights three periods that are of special relevance in the period we study. It depicts periods during which enrollment into the sample was undertaken and more importantly, it displays the period in which products belonging to the HAART family were introduced.

**Appendix Figure S3: CCPs Goodness of fit: No Product**



Notes: Figure shows the average estimated conditional choice probability against the share of people choosing the alternative. Dashed lines represent 95 percent confidence intervals around the predicted CCPs. Figure highlights three periods that are of special relevance in the period we study. It depicts periods during which enrollment into the sample was undertaken and more importantly, it displays the period in which products belonging to the HAART family were introduced.

# C Proofs

## C.1 Proof of Proposition 1

$$\begin{aligned}
v_{jit}(z_{it}) &= y_{jit} + \beta \mathbb{E} [V(z_{it+1}, \varepsilon_{it+1}) | z_{it}, j] \\
&= y_{jit} + \beta \mathbb{E} \left[ D_{it+1}(z_{it+1}) \mathbb{E}_\varepsilon \left[ \sum_{k \in C_{t+1}} d_{ikt+1}^o(z_{it+s}) [y_{ikt+s}(z_{it+s}) + \varepsilon_{ikt+1}] \right] \middle| z_{it}, j \right] \\
&\quad + \beta^2 \mathbb{E} [D_{it+1}(z_{it+1}) V(z_{it+2}, \varepsilon_{it+2}) | z_{it}, j, d_i^o] \\
&= y_{jit} + \beta \mathbb{E} \left[ D_{it+1}(z_{it+1}) \mathbb{E}_\varepsilon \left[ \sum_{k \in C_{t+1}} \mathbb{E}_\varepsilon [d_{ikt+1}^o(z_{it+s}) [y_{ikt+s}(z_{it+s}) + \varepsilon_{ikt+1}] | d_{ikt+1}^o(z_{it+s}) = 1] \right] \middle| z_{it}, j \right] \\
&\quad + \beta^2 \mathbb{E} [D_{it+1}(z_{it+1}) V(z_{it+2}, \varepsilon_{it+2}) | z_{it}, j, d_i^o] \\
&= y_{jit} + \beta \mathbb{E} \left[ D_{it+1}(z_{it+1}) \mathbb{E}_\varepsilon \left[ \sum_{k \in C_{t+1}} d_{ikt+1}^o(z_{it+s}) [y_{ikt+s}(z_{it+s}) + \mathbb{E}_\varepsilon [\varepsilon_{ikt+1} | d_{ikt+1}^o(z_{it+s}) = 1]] \right] \middle| z_{it}, j \right] \\
&\quad + \beta^2 \mathbb{E} [D_{it+1}(z_{it+1}) V(z_{it+2}, \varepsilon_{it+2}) | z_{it}, j, d_i^o] \\
&= y_{jit} + \beta \mathbb{E} \left[ D_{it+1}(z_{it+1}) \mathbb{E}_\varepsilon \left[ \sum_{k \in C_{t+1}} d_{ikt+1}^o(z_{it+s}) [y_{ikt+s}(z_{it+s}) + \psi_{ikt+s}(z_{it+s})] \right] \middle| z_{it}, j \right] \\
&\quad + \beta^2 \mathbb{E} [D_{it+1}(z_{it+1}) V(z_{it+2}, \varepsilon_{it+2}) | z_{it}, j, d_i^o] \\
&= y_{jit} + \beta \mathbb{E} \left[ D_{it+1}(z_{it+1}) \mathbb{E}_\varepsilon \left[ \sum_{k \in C_{t+1}} d_{ikt+1}^o(z_{it+1}) [y_{ikt+1}(z_{it+1}) + \psi_{ikt+1}(z_{it+1})] \right] \middle| z_{it}, j \right] \\
&\quad + \beta^2 P_j^{o(2-1)}(z_{it}) \mathbb{E} [V(z_{it+2}, \varepsilon_{it+2}) | z_{it}, j, S_{it+2-1} = 1, d_i^o] \\
&= y_{jit} \\
&\quad + \sum_{s=1}^{T^*} \beta^s P_j^{o(s-1)}(z_{it}) \mathbb{E}_z \left[ D_{it+s}(z_{it+s}) \sum_{k \in C_{t+s}} p_{ikt+s}(z_{it+s}) [y_{ikt+s}(z_{it+s}) + \psi_{ikt+s}(z_{it+s})] \middle| z_{it}, j, S_{it+s-1} = 1, d_i^o \right] \\
&\quad + \beta^{T^*+1} P_j^{o(T^*)}(z_{it}) \mathbb{E}_z [D_{it+T^*+1}(z_{it+T^*+1}) V(z_{it+T^*+1}, \varepsilon_{it+T^*+1}) | z_{it}, j, S_{it+T^*} = 1, d_i^o]
\end{aligned}$$

That

$$\psi_{kit}(z_{it}) = \gamma - \ln(p_{kit}(z_{it})) \quad (45)$$

follows from the joint distribution of the taste shifter  $\varepsilon_{it}$ , which is Extreme Value Type-I. *Q.E.D.*

# D Additional Tables and Figures

Appendix Table S5: Health Characteristics of Treatments

VARIABLES	(1) cd4	(2) cd4	(3) cd4	(4) cd4	(5) cd4	(6) cd4
$CD4_{t-1}$	0.834*** (0.006)	1.064*** (0.013)	1.009*** (0.014)	1.021*** (0.026)	1.152*** (0.032)	1.136*** (0.051)
$CD4_{t-1}^2/10^3$		-0.174*** (0.012)	-0.097*** (0.018)	-0.121** (0.059)	-0.519*** (0.098)	-0.456** (0.212)
$CD4_{t-1}^3/10^7$			-0.274*** (0.060)	-0.112 (0.430)	4.375*** (1.123)	3.363 (3.518)
$CD4_{t-1}^4/10^{10}$				-0.031 (0.080)	-2.016*** (0.502)	-1.288 (2.598)
$CD4_{t-1}^5/10^{14}$					2.803*** (0.718)	0.482 (8.325)
$CD4_{t-1}^6/10^{18}$						2.623 (9.398)
DT3	-21.583*** (2.840)	-11.174*** (2.707)	-11.950*** (2.700)	-11.909*** (2.699)	-12.004*** (2.697)	-11.983*** (2.697)
DT9	-20.319* (11.743)	-19.561* (11.879)	-19.089 (11.865)	-19.165 (11.865)	-19.655* (11.861)	-19.623* (11.860)
DT13	-72.170*** (11.798)	-53.988*** (12.504)	-55.512*** (12.348)	-55.437*** (12.364)	-55.796*** (12.455)	-55.726*** (12.455)
DT14	-15.506** (6.241)	-4.315 (6.105)	-5.164 (6.100)	-5.115 (6.098)	-5.155 (6.094)	-5.140 (6.094)
DT33	-21.629** (9.038)	0.985 (9.161)	-2.034 (9.112)	-1.689 (9.123)	-0.017 (9.108)	-0.112 (9.113)
DT34	-21.810*** (4.900)	-12.450*** (4.755)	-13.310*** (4.761)	-13.219*** (4.764)	-12.752*** (4.764)	-12.779*** (4.765)
DT39	-31.246*** (5.805)	-15.492*** (5.715)	-17.057*** (5.691)	-16.924*** (5.691)	-16.615*** (5.687)	-16.607*** (5.688)
DT46	7.741* (4.679)	15.348*** (4.566)	14.581*** (4.577)	14.678*** (4.581)	15.263*** (4.574)	15.229*** (4.573)
DT47	-34.371*** (7.318)	-15.583** (7.033)	-17.510** (7.027)	-17.327** (7.028)	-16.474** (7.040)	-16.521** (7.037)
DT51	-22.630*** (7.962)	-3.664 (7.693)	-6.022 (7.690)	-5.740 (7.693)	-4.159 (7.669)	-4.252 (7.670)
DT63	-16.743 (14.637)	2.384 (13.594)	-0.183 (13.649)	0.162 (13.659)	2.415 (13.746)	2.275 (13.735)
DT64	-37.988*** (8.900)	-17.449* (9.076)	-19.583** (8.991)	-19.387** (8.996)	-18.630** (9.035)	-18.656** (9.032)
DT65	-27.913*** (7.203)	-12.409* (7.007)	-13.823** (7.006)	-13.704* (7.006)	-13.186* (6.993)	-13.220* (6.994)
DT67	-50.755*** (15.300)	-31.179** (14.998)	-33.087** (14.986)	-32.938** (14.990)	-32.700** (15.052)	-32.673** (15.044)
DT69	-26.741* (14.379)	-11.827 (13.908)	-13.331 (13.950)	-13.215 (13.945)	-13.351 (13.973)	-13.275 (13.973)
DT85	34.619*** (6.424)	40.457*** (6.319)	39.721*** (6.311)	39.790*** (6.308)	39.776*** (6.299)	39.792*** (6.299)
DT117	33.323*** (12.098)	42.736*** (11.819)	41.910*** (11.837)	41.991*** (11.834)	42.267*** (11.819)	42.277*** (11.818)
DT124	33.711***	33.910***	33.804***	33.864***	34.398***	34.364***

	(6.284)	(6.229)	(6.234)	(6.235)	(6.227)	(6.228)
DT146	27.752*	34.323**	33.694**	33.761**	33.792**	33.831**
	(14.796)	(14.611)	(14.644)	(14.639)	(14.625)	(14.625)
DT157	34.353***	37.455***	37.258***	37.282***	37.173***	37.208***
	(6.945)	(6.861)	(6.862)	(6.862)	(6.856)	(6.857)
DT161	33.496**	38.559***	38.364***	38.340***	38.283***	38.259***
	(13.411)	(13.215)	(13.201)	(13.205)	(13.193)	(13.198)
DT164	55.089**	64.825**	64.314**	64.302**	63.734**	63.798**
	(27.560)	(27.365)	(27.365)	(27.370)	(27.414)	(27.419)
DT165	60.168***	64.722***	65.220***	65.337***	65.041***	65.045***
	(7.077)	(6.246)	(6.215)	(6.225)	(6.220)	(6.222)
DT169	33.129**	34.545**	34.182**	34.289**	35.032**	35.012**
	(16.388)	(16.316)	(16.316)	(16.317)	(16.339)	(16.334)
DT171	73.104***	78.825***	78.453***	78.478***	78.559***	78.548***
	(17.682)	(18.040)	(18.017)	(18.010)	(17.950)	(17.943)
DT175	44.728***	52.470***	52.730***	52.619***	53.128***	53.153***
	(8.770)	(8.233)	(8.202)	(8.198)	(8.176)	(8.172)
DT185	50.899***	58.842***	57.833***	57.922***	57.776***	57.825***
	(12.661)	(12.659)	(12.642)	(12.638)	(12.608)	(12.608)
DT202	32.648**	32.522**	33.226**	33.107**	32.286**	32.338**
	(14.544)	(14.584)	(14.576)	(14.576)	(14.573)	(14.574)
DT214	33.330***	33.541***	34.154***	34.057***	33.510***	33.535***
	(12.245)	(12.162)	(12.166)	(12.164)	(12.163)	(12.161)
DT236	48.886***	46.186***	46.239***	46.267***	46.275***	46.281***
	(7.172)	(7.130)	(7.121)	(7.123)	(7.123)	(7.124)
DT242	47.980***	46.484***	46.110***	46.240***	46.846***	46.863***
	(9.266)	(9.144)	(9.154)	(9.160)	(9.161)	(9.162)
DT254	42.775***	42.587***	42.568***	42.601***	42.631***	42.656***
	(13.502)	(13.436)	(13.444)	(13.443)	(13.446)	(13.445)
DT268	47.316***	52.474***	51.249***	51.353***	50.776***	50.855***
	(10.457)	(10.436)	(10.415)	(10.407)	(10.417)	(10.415)
DT292	42.030***	48.796***	48.057***	48.109***	48.018***	48.069***
	(10.638)	(10.242)	(10.225)	(10.230)	(10.212)	(10.215)
DT311	39.770*	50.740**	49.168**	49.215**	47.816**	47.922**
	(23.206)	(22.720)	(22.698)	(22.709)	(22.774)	(22.780)
DT349	50.575***	42.467**	43.413**	43.408**	44.240***	44.156***
	(16.958)	(17.083)	(17.108)	(17.098)	(17.046)	(17.046)
DT377	56.809***	57.778***	57.727***	57.716***	57.227***	57.259***
	(19.614)	(19.566)	(19.530)	(19.538)	(19.552)	(19.555)
DT532	49.321***	47.631***	47.537***	47.614***	47.978***	47.990***
	(10.952)	(10.886)	(10.899)	(10.899)	(10.893)	(10.892)
DT548	45.842***	43.345***	43.281***	43.348***	43.526***	43.551***
	(5.368)	(5.331)	(5.329)	(5.330)	(5.327)	(5.329)
DT573	40.314***	39.595***	39.432***	39.485***	39.379***	39.426***
	(10.981)	(10.960)	(10.901)	(10.909)	(10.919)	(10.922)
DT581	19.612	18.387	18.413	18.417	17.866	17.935
	(14.499)	(14.316)	(14.341)	(14.341)	(14.376)	(14.378)
DT615	44.239***	40.856***	41.087***	41.122***	41.280***	41.301***
	(11.769)	(11.592)	(11.603)	(11.604)	(11.622)	(11.622)
DT644	54.543***	53.883***	53.615***	53.650***	53.341***	53.368***
	(8.639)	(8.512)	(8.504)	(8.505)	(8.516)	(8.515)
DT701	52.853***	55.916***	54.878***	54.997***	54.824***	54.870***
	(11.144)	(10.997)	(10.979)	(10.975)	(10.999)	(11.003)
DT720	60.713***	79.231***	78.995***	78.688***	78.914***	78.726***
	(13.046)	(14.550)	(14.500)	(14.464)	(14.412)	(14.405)

DT782	28.143* (15.627)	35.924** (14.945)	35.177** (14.959)	35.267** (14.967)	35.611** (15.077)	35.633** (15.068)
DT869	50.005*** (13.110)	50.037*** (12.947)	49.904*** (12.940)	49.946*** (12.946)	49.838*** (12.997)	49.885*** (12.999)
DT909	27.964** (10.898)	33.525*** (10.827)	33.367*** (10.764)	33.310*** (10.781)	32.227*** (10.842)	32.320*** (10.846)
DT919	47.628*** (13.308)	48.846*** (13.619)	48.522*** (13.486)	48.536*** (13.499)	47.617*** (13.453)	47.722*** (13.466)
DT921	15.458 (16.086)	18.929 (14.468)	19.116 (14.426)	19.058 (14.448)	19.273 (14.327)	19.286 (14.341)
DT923	30.619* (17.077)	26.759 (16.964)	26.896 (16.951)	26.960 (16.954)	27.246 (16.971)	27.283 (16.973)
DT926	47.776*** (10.277)	47.965*** (9.953)	47.952*** (9.995)	47.971*** (9.993)	47.790*** (10.024)	47.835*** (10.021)
DT940	54.575*** (15.098)	50.873*** (15.196)	50.705*** (15.198)	50.821*** (15.195)	51.570*** (15.164)	51.537*** (15.163)
DT949	53.752*** (11.818)	50.921*** (11.668)	51.203*** (11.706)	51.236*** (11.701)	51.672*** (11.705)	51.661*** (11.701)
DT963	37.095*** (12.997)	30.953** (13.013)	31.641** (13.021)	31.628** (13.019)	31.845** (13.014)	31.829** (13.015)
DT976	-7.655 (20.271)	2.510 (17.213)	2.487 (16.922)	2.349 (16.980)	2.381 (16.471)	2.436 (16.507)
DT987	4.115 (14.474)	10.199 (14.526)	9.583 (14.496)	9.654 (14.498)	9.855 (14.503)	9.870 (14.500)
DT994	10.625 (17.109)	15.088 (17.416)	15.225 (17.404)	15.171 (17.396)	14.891 (17.282)	14.893 (17.291)
DT1010	12.409 (9.769)	20.292** (9.701)	19.891** (9.687)	19.906** (9.686)	19.980** (9.676)	19.966** (9.676)
DT1011	43.817* (22.599)	39.067* (22.024)	38.498* (22.150)	38.691* (22.142)	39.457* (22.163)	39.484* (22.157)
DT1020	20.973 (13.204)	17.603 (13.121)	18.253 (13.141)	18.220 (13.135)	18.396 (13.111)	18.375 (13.111)
DT1071	58.721*** (4.578)	53.880*** (4.475)	54.012*** (4.469)	54.094*** (4.478)	54.798*** (4.453)	54.796*** (4.453)
DT1128	40.782*** (9.919)	37.265*** (9.662)	37.397*** (9.682)	37.415*** (9.683)	37.227*** (9.722)	37.246*** (9.720)
DT1222	53.239*** (5.409)	52.943*** (5.301)	52.719*** (5.306)	52.793*** (5.307)	53.028*** (5.309)	53.050*** (5.310)
DT1227	83.132*** (20.468)	85.565*** (21.138)	84.437*** (21.037)	84.556*** (21.031)	83.823*** (20.842)	83.917*** (20.859)
DT1230	25.312** (12.040)	27.037** (12.112)	27.504** (12.093)	27.416** (12.093)	26.850** (12.079)	26.886** (12.081)
DT1245	37.822*** (13.418)	38.379*** (13.334)	38.357*** (13.326)	38.374*** (13.328)	38.313*** (13.347)	38.336*** (13.347)
DT1253	46.066*** (7.946)	46.654*** (7.735)	46.213*** (7.745)	46.319*** (7.747)	46.723*** (7.767)	46.735*** (7.765)
DT1303	51.942*** (16.434)	46.893*** (16.225)	47.631*** (16.276)	47.602*** (16.269)	47.800*** (16.284)	47.786*** (16.279)
DT1342	32.840** (14.069)	29.637** (14.124)	30.481** (14.137)	30.395** (14.132)	30.226** (14.115)	30.204** (14.116)
DT10006	-29.515 (19.930)	-21.709 (20.278)	-22.258 (20.256)	-22.209 (20.251)	-21.950 (20.191)	-21.961 (20.194)
DT10026	64.425*** (24.136)	66.829*** (22.649)	65.194*** (22.765)	65.444*** (22.778)	65.353*** (23.021)	65.496*** (23.023)
DT10027	0.210	7.741	7.165	7.179	6.457	6.562

	(14.742)	(14.802)	(14.701)	(14.715)	(14.739)	(14.748)
DT10028	26.450	32.481	31.616	31.629	30.293	30.414
	(19.796)	(20.521)	(20.367)	(20.371)	(20.276)	(20.282)
DT10030	20.031	19.261	19.703	19.654	19.278	19.315
	(17.621)	(17.572)	(17.592)	(17.586)	(17.546)	(17.548)
DT10031	34.205**	29.830**	30.781**	30.712**	31.044**	30.969**
	(15.053)	(14.878)	(14.911)	(14.901)	(14.838)	(14.843)
DT10035	44.294***	43.738***	43.648***	43.682***	43.495***	43.550***
	(15.320)	(15.368)	(15.337)	(15.340)	(15.357)	(15.356)
DT10037	28.525***	28.144***	28.115***	28.134***	27.893**	27.931**
	(11.035)	(10.856)	(10.855)	(10.857)	(10.893)	(10.892)
DT10038	48.755***	44.792***	44.735***	44.855***	45.683***	45.679***
	(13.769)	(13.693)	(13.692)	(13.695)	(13.673)	(13.674)
DT10040	26.314***	28.505***	28.742***	28.692***	28.440***	28.431***
	(8.531)	(8.329)	(8.333)	(8.335)	(8.334)	(8.337)
DT10041	43.028***	41.990***	42.154***	42.158***	42.050***	42.074***
	(12.657)	(12.467)	(12.470)	(12.470)	(12.474)	(12.473)
DT10042	30.254**	32.127**	31.743**	31.779**	31.824**	31.811**
	(12.900)	(13.008)	(13.007)	(12.996)	(12.924)	(12.922)
DT10043	28.589**	26.499**	26.919**	26.894**	26.678**	26.715**
	(12.874)	(12.711)	(12.704)	(12.707)	(12.739)	(12.739)
DT10046	36.196***	32.318**	32.455**	32.517**	32.865**	32.884**
	(13.618)	(13.720)	(13.651)	(13.662)	(13.672)	(13.678)
DT10048	33.017**	33.618**	33.783**	33.756**	33.352**	33.394**
	(15.278)	(14.856)	(14.884)	(14.888)	(14.943)	(14.943)
DT10049	49.474***	47.695***	48.034***	48.005***	47.736***	47.760***
	(11.002)	(10.687)	(10.698)	(10.703)	(10.757)	(10.753)
DT10050	38.954**	38.166**	38.394**	38.415**	38.933**	38.887**
	(17.897)	(18.043)	(18.036)	(18.037)	(18.096)	(18.090)
Constant	56.819***	-2.797	6.623**	5.233	-5.874*	-4.898
	(3.161)	(3.411)	(3.018)	(3.432)	(3.313)	(3.681)
Observations	33,258	33,258	33,258	33,258	33,258	33,258
R-squared	0.728	0.736	0.736	0.736	0.736	0.736

Robust standard errors in parentheses

\*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

**Appendix Table S6: No Ailments Characteristics of Treatments**

VARIABLES	(1) NoSfx	(2) NoSfx	(3) NoSfx	(4) NoSfx	(5) NoSfx	(6) NoSfx
$CD4_{t-1}$	0.001*** (0.000)	0.003*** (0.000)	0.005*** (0.000)	0.006*** (0.000)	0.008*** (0.001)	0.009*** (0.001)
$CD4_{t-1}^2/10^3$		-0.001*** (0.000)	-0.005*** (0.001)	-0.007*** (0.001)	-0.013*** (0.002)	-0.017*** (0.003)
$CD4_{t-1}^3/10^7$			0.013*** (0.003)	0.033*** (0.004)	0.109*** (0.019)	0.166*** (0.040)
$CD4_{t-1}^4/10^{10}$				-0.005*** (0.001)	-0.040*** (0.010)	-0.084*** (0.028)
$CD4_{t-1}^5/10^{14}$					0.054*** (0.016)	0.203** (0.092)
$CD4_{t-1}^6/10^{18}$						-0.186* (0.106)
DT3	-0.576*** (0.040)	-0.515*** (0.041)	-0.500*** (0.041)	-0.498*** (0.041)	-0.500*** (0.041)	-0.501*** (0.041)
DT9	-0.402* (0.208)	-0.404* (0.212)	-0.421** (0.213)	-0.427** (0.213)	-0.433** (0.212)	-0.434** (0.212)
DT13	-0.738*** (0.260)	-0.627** (0.259)	-0.594** (0.260)	-0.593** (0.260)	-0.600** (0.260)	-0.603** (0.260)
DT14	-0.523*** (0.099)	-0.457*** (0.100)	-0.439*** (0.100)	-0.437*** (0.101)	-0.439*** (0.101)	-0.439*** (0.101)
DT33	-1.039*** (0.127)	-0.900*** (0.128)	-0.819*** (0.130)	-0.799*** (0.130)	-0.783*** (0.131)	-0.781*** (0.132)
DT34	-0.622*** (0.079)	-0.569*** (0.079)	-0.549*** (0.080)	-0.544*** (0.080)	-0.539*** (0.080)	-0.538*** (0.081)
DT39	-0.713*** (0.105)	-0.618*** (0.106)	-0.580*** (0.107)	-0.573*** (0.108)	-0.571*** (0.108)	-0.571*** (0.108)
DT46	-0.457*** (0.069)	-0.411*** (0.070)	-0.390*** (0.070)	-0.383*** (0.071)	-0.375*** (0.071)	-0.374*** (0.071)
DT47	-1.016*** (0.157)	-0.907*** (0.159)	-0.866*** (0.162)	-0.858*** (0.162)	-0.851*** (0.163)	-0.850*** (0.163)
DT51	-0.577*** (0.161)	-0.456*** (0.164)	-0.388** (0.166)	-0.369** (0.167)	-0.348** (0.168)	-0.344** (0.168)
DT63	-0.567** (0.269)	-0.445 (0.274)	-0.367 (0.280)	-0.341 (0.282)	-0.310 (0.284)	-0.304 (0.285)
DT64	-0.566*** (0.210)	-0.436** (0.213)	-0.379* (0.218)	-0.367* (0.220)	-0.358 (0.222)	-0.357 (0.222)
DT65	-0.650*** (0.133)	-0.557*** (0.133)	-0.525*** (0.135)	-0.519*** (0.135)	-0.514*** (0.136)	-0.512*** (0.137)
DT67	-1.582*** (0.306)	-1.473*** (0.303)	-1.439*** (0.305)	-1.436*** (0.306)	-1.440*** (0.307)	-1.442*** (0.307)
DT69	-0.916*** (0.261)	-0.827*** (0.261)	-0.790*** (0.262)	-0.785*** (0.263)	-0.789*** (0.263)	-0.793*** (0.264)
DT85	-0.772*** (0.091)	-0.737*** (0.091)	-0.718*** (0.091)	-0.715*** (0.092)	-0.717*** (0.092)	-0.718*** (0.092)
DT117	-0.609*** (0.205)	-0.555*** (0.208)	-0.535** (0.210)	-0.530** (0.211)	-0.527** (0.212)	-0.528** (0.212)
DT124	0.036 (0.093)	0.040 (0.094)	0.050 (0.094)	0.055 (0.094)	0.064 (0.094)	0.065 (0.094)
DT146	-0.568** (0.223)	-0.530** (0.226)	-0.513** (0.227)	-0.509** (0.227)	-0.509** (0.227)	-0.511** (0.227)

DT157	-0.132 (0.112)	-0.111 (0.113)	-0.103 (0.114)	-0.102 (0.114)	-0.104 (0.114)	-0.105 (0.114)
DT161	-0.302* (0.180)	-0.270 (0.182)	-0.270 (0.182)	-0.272 (0.182)	-0.271 (0.182)	-0.270 (0.182)
DT164	-0.532*** (0.184)	-0.475** (0.185)	-0.468** (0.186)	-0.471** (0.187)	-0.479** (0.187)	-0.482** (0.187)
DT165	-0.106 (0.080)	-0.084 (0.081)	-0.078 (0.081)	-0.073 (0.081)	-0.075 (0.081)	-0.076 (0.081)
DT169	-0.604** (0.244)	-0.600** (0.246)	-0.585** (0.248)	-0.577** (0.249)	-0.567** (0.250)	-0.566** (0.250)
DT171	-0.342* (0.190)	-0.308 (0.195)	-0.299 (0.197)	-0.297 (0.198)	-0.295 (0.199)	-0.295 (0.199)
DT175	-0.424*** (0.099)	-0.377*** (0.100)	-0.399*** (0.100)	-0.402*** (0.100)	-0.395*** (0.100)	-0.397*** (0.100)
DT185	-0.671*** (0.174)	-0.621*** (0.175)	-0.592*** (0.176)	-0.588*** (0.176)	-0.591*** (0.177)	-0.594*** (0.177)
DT202	0.003 (0.226)	-0.002 (0.227)	-0.027 (0.228)	-0.036 (0.228)	-0.048 (0.229)	-0.050 (0.229)
DT214	-0.720*** (0.267)	-0.730*** (0.268)	-0.754*** (0.269)	-0.761*** (0.269)	-0.767*** (0.269)	-0.768*** (0.268)
DT236	0.125 (0.112)	0.107 (0.112)	0.109 (0.112)	0.110 (0.111)	0.109 (0.111)	0.109 (0.111)
DT242	-0.415*** (0.121)	-0.425*** (0.120)	-0.403*** (0.121)	-0.393*** (0.120)	-0.386*** (0.121)	-0.387*** (0.121)
DT254	-0.446*** (0.160)	-0.450*** (0.159)	-0.447*** (0.159)	-0.444*** (0.159)	-0.444*** (0.160)	-0.445*** (0.160)
DT268	-0.508*** (0.122)	-0.466*** (0.122)	-0.426*** (0.122)	-0.423*** (0.122)	-0.432*** (0.122)	-0.436*** (0.122)
DT292	-0.941*** (0.128)	-0.900*** (0.130)	-0.882*** (0.130)	-0.879*** (0.130)	-0.881*** (0.130)	-0.883*** (0.130)
DT311	-0.913*** (0.214)	-0.830*** (0.213)	-0.785*** (0.214)	-0.788*** (0.213)	-0.810*** (0.213)	-0.813*** (0.213)
DT349	0.809** (0.332)	0.756** (0.327)	0.736** (0.325)	0.740** (0.324)	0.753** (0.324)	0.757** (0.325)
DT377	-1.043*** (0.219)	-1.040*** (0.220)	-1.039*** (0.219)	-1.041*** (0.220)	-1.049*** (0.220)	-1.050*** (0.220)
DT532	-0.353** (0.146)	-0.366** (0.148)	-0.356** (0.149)	-0.350** (0.149)	-0.346** (0.149)	-0.346** (0.149)
DT548	0.340*** (0.084)	0.327*** (0.085)	0.337*** (0.085)	0.341*** (0.085)	0.342*** (0.085)	0.341*** (0.085)
DT573	0.031 (0.233)	0.027 (0.231)	0.038 (0.232)	0.040 (0.233)	0.038 (0.235)	0.036 (0.235)
DT581	-0.454** (0.181)	-0.463** (0.180)	-0.460** (0.180)	-0.462** (0.180)	-0.470*** (0.180)	-0.473*** (0.179)
DT615	-0.605*** (0.163)	-0.631*** (0.164)	-0.632*** (0.164)	-0.628*** (0.164)	-0.626*** (0.163)	-0.627*** (0.163)
DT644	0.106 (0.128)	0.102 (0.126)	0.113 (0.125)	0.113 (0.125)	0.108 (0.125)	0.107 (0.125)
DT701	-0.508*** (0.127)	-0.481*** (0.128)	-0.444*** (0.128)	-0.438*** (0.128)	-0.442*** (0.128)	-0.444*** (0.128)
DT720	0.263 (0.190)	0.387** (0.181)	0.349* (0.186)	0.337* (0.188)	0.348* (0.186)	0.355* (0.185)
DT782	-0.393 (0.262)	-0.345 (0.265)	-0.321 (0.269)	-0.315 (0.270)	-0.310 (0.271)	-0.311 (0.271)
DT869	-0.661***	-0.664***	-0.656***	-0.653***	-0.655***	-0.657***

	(0.183)	(0.183)	(0.182)	(0.181)	(0.180)	(0.180)
DT909	-0.560***	-0.528***	-0.530***	-0.537***	-0.552***	-0.556***
	(0.197)	(0.196)	(0.194)	(0.193)	(0.193)	(0.193)
DT919	-0.974***	-0.966***	-0.951***	-0.952***	-0.966***	-0.971***
	(0.274)	(0.268)	(0.261)	(0.260)	(0.261)	(0.262)
DT921	-0.659***	-0.641***	-0.656***	-0.657***	-0.652***	-0.653***
	(0.204)	(0.207)	(0.206)	(0.206)	(0.205)	(0.205)
DT923	-0.244	-0.270	-0.266	-0.261	-0.258	-0.260
	(0.212)	(0.213)	(0.214)	(0.214)	(0.214)	(0.214)
DT926	-0.015	-0.013	-0.009	-0.008	-0.011	-0.013
	(0.153)	(0.153)	(0.153)	(0.153)	(0.154)	(0.154)
DT940	-0.940***	-0.967***	-0.952***	-0.943***	-0.934***	-0.933***
	(0.207)	(0.206)	(0.207)	(0.208)	(0.208)	(0.208)
DT949	-0.081	-0.100	-0.102	-0.098	-0.092	-0.092
	(0.171)	(0.173)	(0.174)	(0.174)	(0.174)	(0.174)
DT963	-0.251	-0.296*	-0.311*	-0.311*	-0.308*	-0.307*
	(0.178)	(0.179)	(0.179)	(0.179)	(0.178)	(0.178)
DT976	-0.463*	-0.396	-0.418	-0.422*	-0.420*	-0.424*
	(0.253)	(0.259)	(0.255)	(0.254)	(0.253)	(0.253)
DT987	0.214	0.262	0.287	0.294	0.298	0.297
	(0.260)	(0.266)	(0.271)	(0.272)	(0.274)	(0.275)
DT994	-0.814***	-0.798***	-0.813***	-0.817***	-0.820***	-0.820***
	(0.244)	(0.246)	(0.248)	(0.248)	(0.249)	(0.249)
DT1010	-0.778***	-0.739***	-0.738***	-0.739***	-0.738***	-0.738***
	(0.209)	(0.212)	(0.214)	(0.215)	(0.215)	(0.215)
DT1011	-0.793***	-0.820***	-0.785***	-0.770***	-0.762***	-0.763***
	(0.279)	(0.279)	(0.276)	(0.275)	(0.275)	(0.275)
DT1020	-0.234	-0.261	-0.278	-0.279	-0.276	-0.275
	(0.240)	(0.237)	(0.238)	(0.238)	(0.239)	(0.239)
DT1071	0.129*	0.098	0.102	0.110	0.118*	0.118*
	(0.066)	(0.067)	(0.067)	(0.067)	(0.067)	(0.067)
DT1128	-0.178	-0.203	-0.202	-0.202	-0.205	-0.205
	(0.134)	(0.134)	(0.133)	(0.133)	(0.132)	(0.132)
DT1222	0.114	0.116	0.130	0.135	0.138	0.137
	(0.088)	(0.089)	(0.090)	(0.090)	(0.090)	(0.090)
DT1227	0.254	0.275	0.315	0.318	0.306	0.303
	(0.310)	(0.311)	(0.310)	(0.309)	(0.309)	(0.310)
DT1230	-0.040	-0.032	-0.048	-0.054	-0.061	-0.063
	(0.209)	(0.211)	(0.211)	(0.211)	(0.210)	(0.210)
DT1245	-0.406**	-0.405**	-0.403*	-0.402*	-0.403*	-0.404*
	(0.204)	(0.205)	(0.206)	(0.207)	(0.208)	(0.208)
DT1253	-0.223*	-0.217	-0.196	-0.189	-0.183	-0.184
	(0.133)	(0.134)	(0.134)	(0.134)	(0.135)	(0.135)
DT1303	0.101	0.065	0.047	0.046	0.049	0.049
	(0.251)	(0.255)	(0.255)	(0.254)	(0.252)	(0.251)
DT1342	-0.310	-0.339*	-0.366*	-0.371*	-0.372*	-0.371*
	(0.194)	(0.197)	(0.199)	(0.199)	(0.199)	(0.199)
DT10006	-1.059***	-1.025***	-1.020***	-1.019***	-1.017***	-1.017***
	(0.260)	(0.266)	(0.269)	(0.269)	(0.269)	(0.269)
DT10026	-0.153	-0.126	-0.062	-0.048	-0.054	-0.061
	(0.332)	(0.330)	(0.324)	(0.323)	(0.325)	(0.326)
DT10027	0.010	0.063	0.080	0.079	0.068	0.063
	(0.291)	(0.288)	(0.285)	(0.285)	(0.285)	(0.285)
DT10028	-0.735***	-0.690***	-0.665**	-0.669**	-0.689***	-0.694***
	(0.268)	(0.267)	(0.264)	(0.263)	(0.261)	(0.262)

DT10030	-1.082*** (0.276)	-1.099*** (0.277)	-1.114*** (0.278)	-1.117*** (0.279)	-1.121*** (0.279)	-1.123*** (0.279)
DT10031	-0.631** (0.291)	-0.671** (0.300)	-0.701** (0.303)	-0.704** (0.303)	-0.697** (0.302)	-0.693** (0.301)
DT10035	-0.411* (0.242)	-0.416* (0.242)	-0.409* (0.243)	-0.407* (0.243)	-0.410* (0.243)	-0.413* (0.243)
DT10037	-0.462*** (0.170)	-0.467*** (0.172)	-0.463*** (0.173)	-0.463*** (0.173)	-0.467*** (0.173)	-0.468*** (0.172)
DT10038	-1.266*** (0.231)	-1.301*** (0.233)	-1.287*** (0.232)	-1.277*** (0.231)	-1.265*** (0.230)	-1.266*** (0.230)
DT10040	-0.452*** (0.164)	-0.445*** (0.165)	-0.458*** (0.166)	-0.462*** (0.166)	-0.465*** (0.167)	-0.465*** (0.167)
DT10041	-0.597*** (0.228)	-0.609*** (0.229)	-0.611*** (0.229)	-0.611*** (0.229)	-0.612*** (0.229)	-0.613*** (0.229)
DT10042	-0.694*** (0.190)	-0.681*** (0.193)	-0.668*** (0.193)	-0.666*** (0.192)	-0.665*** (0.191)	-0.664*** (0.191)
DT10043	-0.178 (0.225)	-0.194 (0.226)	-0.205 (0.226)	-0.206 (0.226)	-0.210 (0.226)	-0.212 (0.226)
DT10046	0.084 (0.327)	0.060 (0.328)	0.064 (0.327)	0.068 (0.326)	0.072 (0.325)	0.071 (0.324)
DT10048	0.042 (0.233)	0.046 (0.234)	0.042 (0.234)	0.039 (0.234)	0.032 (0.234)	0.030 (0.234)
DT10049	-0.191 (0.167)	-0.206 (0.168)	-0.215 (0.168)	-0.217 (0.167)	-0.221 (0.167)	-0.222 (0.167)
DT10050	-0.375 (0.231)	-0.386 (0.235)	-0.390* (0.236)	-0.387 (0.236)	-0.379 (0.236)	-0.377 (0.236)
Constant	0.091*** (0.031)	-0.320*** (0.045)	-0.638*** (0.065)	-0.754*** (0.057)	-0.929*** (0.067)	-0.981*** (0.073)
Observations	33,258	33,258	33,258	33,258	33,258	33,258

Robust standard errors in parentheses

\*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1