

**ACTIVE: the use of endonucleases to cure viral infections**  
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<b>Executive Summary of the presentation</b>	<p>ACTIVE focuses on the antiviral use of meganucleases, DNA 'cutters' developed by Collectis. Chronic or latent viral infections are particularly difficult to fight. All antiviral products currently commercially available or in development aim at slowing the propagation of active viruses, by preventing the virus from entering cells, multiplying or assembling, or by destroying certain infected cells in which the virus is particularly active. However, none of these products can disinfect cells, eliminating the virus, because no antibiotics against viruses have been discovered.</p> <p>The therapeutic approach adopted by ACTIVE is particularly innovative. For the first time, candidate drugs are designed to eliminate the viral genome present in the cell and to disinfect it. This will involve the use of meganucleases, able to cut and destroy the viral genome present in an infected cell. The meganuclease targets the viral DNA, which can be destroyed even if the virus persists in the cell during a period of latency (period when the virus is not active). This unique property of physically targeting the viral genome itself makes this family of antiviral molecules entirely novel. The viral genome thus becomes a therapeutic target and the approach pursued in ACTIVE directly targets the cause of the disease.</p> <p>The project aims at developing these molecules for the treatment of certain persistent infections, particularly those caused by HIV as well as ocular herpes infections. Some of these molecules will be used in clinical investigations, as part of the ACTIVE project.</p>
<b>Actors and Partners (including international)</b>	Collectis – Genomic Vision – Institut Pasteur – CNRS – Institut de la Vision
<b>Project budget (option)</b>	22M€
<b>Funding</b>	10M€ from Oséo-ISI
<b>Current Needs / Objectives (fund, partners, ...)</b>	Collectis has already developed the target specific meganucleases for HIV and HSV. The company is now looking for a partner who is interested in co-developing the candidate medicines up to phase IIa and is thereafter interested to further develop and commercialize this first in class anti-viral therapy that will support the patient's immune system in clearing the virus, and ultimately resolving the chronic infection.