Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in Pediatric HIV Infection

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### Table 15k. Antiretroviral-Therapy-Associated Adverse Effects and Management Recommendations—Peripheral Nervous System Toxicity  
(Updated May 22, 2018; last reviewed May 22, 2018)

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| ARV Toxic Neuropathy<sup>b</sup> | d4T, ddl | Onset:  
- Weeks to months | Adults:  
- Up to 50% in adults taking d4T | Pre-existing neuropathy | Do not use d4T, ddl, or IDV. Co-administration of ddl and d4T is contraindicated (no exceptions). | Investigate potential causes, including non-ARV medications and nutritional deficiencies. |
|                 | d4T or ddl are no longer recommended for use in an ARV regimen. | Presentation:  
- Decreased sensation | Adults:  
- Elevated triglyceride levels | Monitor for symptoms and signs of peripheral neuropathy. | Discontinue offending agent. |
|                 | Pls rarely, primarily IDV | Aching, burning, painful numbness | Adults:  
- Poor nutrition | | Topical capsaicin 8% may be helpful. |
|                 | | Hyperalgesia | Adults:  
- More advanced HIV disease | | Consider referral to a neurologist. |
|                 | | Allodynia | Adults:  
- Concomitant use of other neurotoxic agents (e.g., INH) | | Data are insufficient to allow the Panel to recommend use of any of the following modalities: tricyclic antidepressants, gabapentin, gregabalin, mexiletine, lamotrigine, and acupuncture or other complementary approaches. |
|                 | | Decreased or absent ankle reflexes | Adults:  
- Some mitochondrial DNA haplogroups may have increased risk. | | |
|                 | | Distribution:  
- Bilateral soles of feet, ascending to legs and fingertips | | | |

<sup>a</sup> Peripheral neuropathy may be underreported in children because symptoms are difficult to evaluate in young children.

<sup>b</sup> HIV infection itself may cause a distal sensory neuropathy that is phenotypically identical to ARV toxic neuropathy.

**Key to Acronyms:** ARV = antiretroviral; d4T = stavudine; ddl = didanosine; IDV = indinavir; INH = isoniazid; PI = protease inhibitor; the Panel = The Panel on Antiretroviral Therapy and Medical Management of Children Living with HIV

### References


