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—Rash and Hypersensitivity Reactions  
*(Last updated April 16, 2019; last reviewed April 16, 2019)* (page 1 of 4)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adverse Effects</th>
<th>Associated ARVs</th>
<th>Onset/Clinical Manifestations</th>
<th>Estimated Frequency</th>
<th>Risk Factors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rash</td>
<td>Any ARV drug can cause rash</td>
<td>Onset:</td>
<td>First few days to weeks after starting new ARV drug(s)</td>
<td>Common (&gt;10%):</td>
<td>Sulfonamide allergy is a risk factor for rash in patients who are taking PIs that contain a sulfonamide moiety (e.g., DRV). Polymorphisms in CYP2B6 and multiple HLA loci may confer an increased risk of rash in patients who are taking NVP.</td>
<td>When Starting NVP or Restarting After Interruptions of &gt;14 Days: Utilize once-daily lead-in dosing. This may not be necessary in children aged &lt;2 years. Avoid the use of systemic corticosteroids during NVP dose escalation. Assess patient for rash severity, mucosal involvement, and other signs of systemic reaction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SJS/TEN/EM Major</td>
<td>Many ARV drugs, especially NNRTIs (see the Estimated Frequency column)</td>
<td>Onset:</td>
<td>First few days to weeks after starting new ARV drug(s)</td>
<td>Infrequent: NVP (0.3%) EFV (0.1%) ETR (&lt;0.1%)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Discontinue all ARV drugs and other possible causative agents (e.g., TMP-SMX). Provide intensive supportive including care, IV hydration, aggressive wound care, eye care, labial adhesion preventative care, pain management, and antipyretics. Parenteral nutrition and antibiotics may also be necessary. Corticosteroids and/or IVIG are sometimes used, but the use of these interventions is controversial. Do not reintroduce the offending medication. When SJS/TEN/EM major occurs with the use of one NNRTI, many experts would avoid the use of other NNRTIs.</td>
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</table>

*Note: A rash can be the initial manifestation of systemic hypersensitivity (see the SJS/TEN/EM Major and HSR sections below).*
### Table 15k. Antiretroviral Therapy-Associated Adverse Effects and Management Recommendations—Rash and Hypersensitivity Reactions
(Last updated April 16, 2019; last reviewed April 16, 2019) (page 2 of 4)

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<tr>
<td><strong>DRESS</strong></td>
<td>DRV, DTG, EFV, ETR, NVP, RAL, RPV</td>
<td>Onset: • 1–8 weeks after starting new ARV drug(s) Presentation: • Fever • Lymphadenopathy • Facial swelling • Morbilliform to polymorphous rash • Peripheral eosinophilia • Atypical circulating lymphocytes • Internal organ involvement (particularly the liver and/or kidneys)</td>
<td>Rare</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Obtain a CBC and AST, ALT, and creatinine levels from a patient who presents with suggestive symptoms.</td>
<td>Discontinue all ARV drugs and other possible causative agents (e.g., TMP-SMX). The role of systemic steroids in treatment unclear; consultation with a specialist is recommended. Provide supportive care for end-organ disease. <strong>Do not reintroduce</strong> the offending medication.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HSR</strong> With or without skin involvement and excluding SJS/TEN</td>
<td>ABC</td>
<td>Onset With First Use: • Within first 6 weeks With Reintroduction: • Within hours Presentation: • Symptoms include high fever, diffuse skin rash, malaise, nausea, headache, myalgia, arthralgia, diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain, pharyngitis, and respiratory symptoms (e.g., dyspnea). • With continuation of ABC, symptoms may progress to hypotension and vascular collapse. With rechallenge, symptoms can mimic anaphylaxis.</td>
<td>≤1% to 9% (varies by ethnicity)</td>
<td>HLA-B<em>5701 (HSR is very uncommon in people who are HLA-B</em>5701 negative). The risk of HSR is higher in patients who are white compared to patients who are black or East Asian.</td>
<td>Screen for HLA-B<em>5701. **ABC should not be prescribed if HLA-B</em>5701 is present.** The medical record should clearly indicate that ABC is contraindicated. When starting ABC, counsel patients and families about the signs and symptoms of HSR to ensure prompt reporting of reactions.</td>
<td>Discontinue ARV drugs and investigate other causes of the symptoms (e.g., a concurrent viral illness). Provide symptomatic treatment. Most symptoms resolve within 48 hours after discontinuing ABC. <strong>Do not rechallenge</strong> with ABC even if the patient is HLA-B*5701 negative.</td>
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| HSR, continued | NVP            | Onset:  
- Occurs most frequently in the first few weeks of therapy, but can occur through 18 weeks  
Presentation:  
- Flu-like symptoms (including nausea, vomiting, myalgia, fatigue, fever, abdominal pain, and jaundice) with or without skin rash that may progress to hepatic failure with encephalopathy | Occurs in 4% of patients on average, with a range of 2.5% to 11% | Adults:  
- Treatment-naive with a higher CD4 count (>250 cells/mm³ in women; >400 cells/mm³ in men)  
- Female sex (risk is three-fold higher in females than in males)  
Children:  
- NVP hepatotoxicity and HSR are less common in prepubertal children than in adults, and both are uncommon in infants.  
- High CD4 percentage is associated with an increased risk of NVP toxicity. In the PREDICT study, the risk of NVP toxicity (rash, hepatotoxicity, hypersensitivity) was 2.65 times greater in children who had CD4 percentages 15% than in children who had CD4 percentages <15% | When Starting NVP or Restarting After Interruptions of >14 Days:  
- A 2-week lead-in period with once-daily dosing, followed by dose escalation to twice daily as recommended, may reduce the risk of reaction. This may not be necessary in children aged <2 years.  
- Counsel families about signs and symptoms of HSR to ensure prompt reporting of reactions.  
- Obtain AST and ALT levels in patients with rash. Obtain AST and ALT levels at baseline, before dose escalation, 2 weeks after dose escalation, and thereafter at 3-month intervals.  
- Avoid NVP use in women with CD4 counts >250 cells/mm³ and in men with CD4 counts >400 cells/mm³, unless benefits outweigh risks.  
- Do not use NVP as PEP outside of the neonatal period. | Discontinue ARV drugs.  
Consider other causes for hepatitis and discontinue all hepatotoxic medications. Provide supportive care as indicated and monitor the patient closely.  
Do not re-introduce NVP. The safety of other NNRTIs is unknown following symptomatic hepatitis due to NVP, and many experts would avoid the NNRTI drug class when restarting treatment. |
### Table 15K. Antiretroviral Therapy-Associated Adverse Effects and Management Recommendations—Rash and Hypersensitivity Reactions  (Last updated April 16, 2019; last reviewed April 16, 2019)  (page 4 of 4)

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<tr>
<td>HSR, continued</td>
<td>ETR</td>
<td>Onset:</td>
<td>Rare</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Evaluate for hypersensitivity if the patient is symptomatic.</td>
<td>Discontinue ARV drugs. Rechallenge with ETR <strong>is not recommended</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Any time during therapy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Presentation:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Symptoms may include rash, constitutional findings, and sometimes organ dysfunction, including hepatic failure.</td>
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<tr>
<td>MVC</td>
<td>Rash preceding hepatotoxicity</td>
<td>Rare</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Obtain AST and ALT levels in patients with rash or other symptoms of hypersensitivity.</td>
<td>Discontinue all ARV drugs. Rechallenge with MVC <strong>is not recommended</strong>.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DTG</td>
<td>Rash with hepatic dysfunction</td>
<td>Rare</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Obtain AST and ALT levels in patients with rash or other symptoms of hypersensitivity.</td>
<td>Discontinue all ARV drugs. Rechallenge with DTG is <strong>contraindicated</strong>.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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* The prescribing information for NVP states that patients who experience rash during the 14-day lead-in period should not have the NVP dose increased until the rash has resolved. However, prolonging the lead-in phase beyond 14 days may increase the risk of NVP resistance because of subtherapeutic drug levels. Children who have persistent mild or moderate rash after the lead-in period should receive individualized care. Consult an expert in HIV care when managing these patients. **NVP should be stopped and not restarted** if the rash is severe or progressing. See the NVP section of the Drug Appendix.

* Lead-in dosing **is not recommended** when using nevirapine for either empiric or definitive HIV therapy in newborns with perinatal HIV exposure or perinatal HIV. See the NVP section of the Drug Appendix and Table 12.

**Key to Acronyms:** ABC = abacavir; ALT = alanine transaminase; ARV = antiretroviral; AST = aspartate aminotransferase; ATV = atazanavir; CBC = complete blood count; CD4 = CD4 T lymphocyte; CYP = cytochrome P450; DRESS = drug reaction (or rash) with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms; DRV = darunavir; DTG = dolutegravir; EFV = efavirenz; EM = erythema multiforme; ETR = etravirine; FTC = emtricitabine; HLA = human leukocyte antigen; HSR = hypersensitivity reaction; IV = intravenous; IVIG = intravenous immune globulin; LPV/r = lopinavir/ritonavir; MVC = maraviroc; NNRTI = non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor; NVP = nevirapine; PEP = post-exposure prophylaxis; PI = protease inhibitor; RAL = raltegravir; RPV = rilpivirine; SJS = Stevens-Johnson syndrome; TDF = tenofovir disoproxil fumarate; TEN = toxic epidermal necrolysis; TMP-SMX = trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole; ZDV = zidovudine
References


