

Poster presentation

Comparing the efficacy of Truvada[®] and Kivexa[®] combination therapy in HAART-naive individuals with different viral loads

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Purpose of the study

Truvada (emtricitabine + tenofovir) and Kivexa (abacavir + lamivudine) are combination therapies used as the nucleos(t)ide backbone in combination antiretroviral therapy. Recent reports have suggested Kivexa may be inferior to Truvada at high viral load (>100,000 copies/ml).

Methods

Retrospective case note review. All patients underwent HLA B5701 testing.

Summary of results

Between April 2006 and April 2008, 87 HAART-naive patients were commenced on either Truvada or Kivexa in combination with; efavirenz (53), nevirapine (3), Kaletra (6), atazanavir/ritonavir (9), other protease inhibitors (13). In the Truvada group (53), overall mean baseline viral load (VL) was 122,106 copies/ml. In the Kivexa group (33), overall mean baseline VL was 99,883 copies/ml. In order to assess the effect of different initial viral loads on the response to combination therapy, the patients were divided into three groups: those with High (>100,000 copies/ml), Intermediate (10,000 – 100,000 copies/ml) and Low (<10,000 copies/ml) viral loads prior to commencing HAART. (Table 1.)

Failure to achieve a viral load of less than 1,000 copies/ml by 4 weeks of therapy is strongly associated with failure to achieve long-term viral suppression. In the Truvada group, 67% of all patients achieved this level by 4 weeks of therapy. In the Kivexa group, 70% of all patients

achieved a viral load of <1,000 copies/ml after 4 weeks of therapy.

Conclusion

There is no significant difference in clinical practice when comparing the use of Truvada and Kivexa in patients with different viral loads at commencement.

Table 1:

	TRUVADA				KIVEXA			
	All (mean 122,106)	VL > 100,000 (mean 263,684)	VL 10– 100,000 (mean 45, 772)	VL < 10,000 (mean 5243)	All (mean 99,883)	VL > 100,000 (mean 256,364)	VL 10– 100,000 (mean 48, 221)	VL < 10,000 (mean 6214)
Number of patients	53	20	23	10	33	9	20	4
VL < 50 at 3 months (%)	60	35	74	80	73	60	80	75
VL < 50 at 4 months (%)	75	60	87	90	79	78	85	75
VL < 50 at 6 months (%)	83	80	91	90	91	89	90	100
VL < 1000 at 4 weeks (%)	67	45	83	70	70	22	85	100

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