



XVII INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

3-8 August 2008 | Mexico City

Poster Exhibition

Track B - Complications of Therapy

THPE0179 - Risk factors for hepatotoxicity of nevirapine-containing antiretroviral drug regimens in a large antiretroviral treatment program in Rwanda

J. van Griensven¹, F. Rassaert², E.F. Atté¹, A. Asiimwe³, R. Zachariah², T. Reid²

¹Medecins Sans Frontieres, Kigali, Rwanda, ²Medecins Sans Frontieres, Brussels, Belgium, ³TRAC, Kigali, Rwanda

Background: Whereas studies from high-income countries have shown that female sex and a baseline CD4 cell count >250 cells/ μ L increase the risk of nevirapine-induced hepatotoxicity, data from low-income countries show conflicting results. However, given the tendency to start antiretroviral treatment (ART) at higher baseline CD4 cell counts, in particular within prevention-of-mother-to-child (PMTCT) programs, the safety of using nevirapine at CD4 counts > 250 cells/ μ L needs to be further assessed.

Methods: Analysis of toxicity-related drug substitutions of 2367 adults starting nevirapine-containing ART regimens in two urban government health centers in Kigali, Rwanda. Risk factors for severe nevirapine-related hepatotoxicity (grade III/IV) were assessed using multivariate Cox regression analysis.

Results: Of a total of 2367 patients, 73% were female (n=1724). The median baseline CD4 count was 162 cells/ μ L and 22% started ART with a baseline CD4 count > 250 cells/ μ L. Thirty patients (1.27%) developed severe hepatotoxicity (incidence rate 9/1000 patient-years). In multivariate analysis, abnormal baseline liver function tests (hazard ratio (HR): 5.37 (95% CI 2.04-14.14) P=0.001) and a body mass index (BMI) < 20 kg/m² (HR: 2.27 (95% CI 1.03-5.27.); P=0.037) were significantly associated with hepatotoxicity. There was no significant associated risk with baseline CD4 counts > 250 cells/ μ L (HR: 1.19 (95% CI 0.34-4.17.); P=0.778) or female sex (HR: 1.22 (95% CI 0.42-3.58.); P=0.711).

Conclusions: These data suggest that nevirapine administered to women with baseline CD4 counts > 250 cells/ μ L, as can occur in PMTCT programs, is not significantly associated with a higher risk of hepatotoxicity. Further evidence from other similar settings would be useful to compliment this finding.

Presenting author email: tony.reid@brussels.msf.org