



ORAL PRESENTATION

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SIDE effects associated with use of nevirapine in HIV treatment naïve patients with respect to baseline CD4 count

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Background

This study aims to detect Nevirapine (NVP) side effects among patients started with lead in dose at initiation of Anti Retroviral Therapy (ART) with CD4 count >250 cells/mm³ in female and CD4 count >400 cells/mm³ in male.

Methods

Close monitoring was conducted for the detection of NVP based side effects among ART - naïve patients

initiated on CD4 count >250 cells/mm³ among women and CD4 count > 400 cells/mm³ are the study target at Centre of Excellence (CoE), ART Centre, B. J. Medical College, Civil Hospital, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India.

Results

Total 5060 patients were initiated ART during the period of may 2005 to may 2009 at the institute. Among this 3647 (72%) were initiated with NVP lead in dose as per the Indian National ART Guidelines, Table 1.

Table 1

	Parameter	Outcome
NVP lead in dose initiated patients		3647 (n)
	Male	2408(66.02%)
	Female	1239(33.97%)
Male with CD4 >400 cells/mm ³ and initiated NVP lead in dose (n = 2408)		47(1.95%)
Female with CD4 >250 cells/mm ³ and initiated NVP lead in dose (n = 1239)		112(9.03%)
NVP induced Rash	Male (n = 47)	0
	Female (n = 112)	5(4.46%)
NVP induced Hepatitis	Male (n = 47)	1(2.12%)
	Female (n = 112)	0
Male with CD4 <400 cells/mm ³ and initiated NVP lead in dose (n = 2408)		1629(67.64%)
Female with CD4 <250 cells/mm ³ and initiated NVP lead in dose (n = 1239)		838(67.63%)
NVP induced Rash	Male (n = 1629)	19(1.16%)
	Female (n = 838)	15(1.78%)
NVP induced Hepatitis	Male (n = 1629)	5(0.30%)
	Female (n = 838)	2(0.23%)

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Discussion

Skin Rash was recovered on substituting with another NNRTI- Efavirenz (EFV) and the treatment was well tolerated. Hepatitis was managed with substitution to EFV and close follow-up on ALT and AST. Though western literature has a black box warning for use of NVP, this data shows if closely monitored it could be given at resources limited settings with CD4 counts >250 cells/ mm^3 in females and >400 cells/ mm^3 males. Nevirapine is cost effective molecule compared to Efavirenz and when given in such conditions of higher CD4 need close follow up.

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