



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/mm<sup>3</sup> in female and CD4 count >400 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> 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/mm<sup>3</sup> among women and CD4 count > 400 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> 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 <sup>3</sup> and initiated NVP lead in dose (n = 2408)		47(1.95%)
Female with CD4 >250 cells/mm <sup>3</sup> 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 <sup>3</sup> and initiated NVP lead in dose (n = 2408)		1629(67.64%)
Female with CD4 <250 cells/mm <sup>3</sup> 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/ $\text{mm}^3$  in females and  $>400$  cells/ $\text{mm}^3$  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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