

POSTER PRESENTATION

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# Effectiveness of pegylated interferon alfa plus HAART in HIV/HBV treatment-naïve coinfecting patients

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## Background

To our knowledge, the antiviral activity of pegylated interferon alfa plus HAART has not been studied in patients with human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) coinfecting with chronic hepatitis B virus (HBV).

## Objective

To evaluate the effectiveness of pegylated interferon alfa plus HAART in HIV/HBV treatment-naïve coinfecting patients.

## Methods

We performed a prospective cohort study in HIV/HBV treatment-naïve coinfecting patients taking care at "La Raza" National Medical Center, Mexico City. Patients were treated with Efavirenz or Lopinavir-ritonavir, each with tenofovir/emtricitabine plus pegylated interferon alfa-2b (1.5 µg/kg/week) or pegylated interferon alfa-2a (180 µg/week) during 48 weeks. HBV genetic analysis was obtained. The study had a primary measure of effectiveness assessed at 24 and 48 weeks of treatment: suppression of HIV RNA to levels below 50 IU/ml. Secondary endpoints were increased in CD4+ cells count, HBV DNA to levels below 60 IU/ml, HBeAg seroconversion (defined by the loss of HBeAg and the presence of anti-HBe antibody) and HBsAg seroconversion (defined by the loss of HBsAg and the presence of anti-HBs antibody). Cumulative incidence with 95% confidence interval (95%CI) were calculated.

## Results

We enrolled 18 subjects, 1 patient discontinued treatment because adverse events related to PEG-IFN. The mean (± SD) age was 30.3 ± 6.9 years old, all patients were men. The median (interquartile range) basal CD4+

cells count was 112 (61 to 300), RNA HIV 163,000 copies/ml (9,545 to 636,500 copies/ml), DNA HBV 20,200,000 IU/ml (627,500 to 480,500,000 IU/ml). All patients had positive HBeAg and were negative to HDV serology. HBV genotype distribution was H 9 (52%), G 6 (35%), A 1 (6%) and F 1 (6%). Primary endpoint (RNA HIV < 50 copies/ml) was present in 100% of our patient at 24 and 48 weeks; the median increased in CD4+ cells count was 231 cells/ml at 24 weeks and 322 cells/ml at 48 weeks; cumulative incidence of secondary endpoints were: DNA HBV < 60 UI/ml was present in 8 patients [47% CI95% 26-69%] at 24 weeks and 17 patients (100%) at 48 weeks; HBeAg seroconversion was in 8 patients [47% CI95% 26-69%] at 24 weeks and 16 patients [94% CI95% 73-98%] at 48 weeks, HBsAg seroconversion was in 0 patients (0%) at 24 weeks and 6 patients [35% CI95% 17-58%] at 48 weeks.

## Conclusions

Pegylated interferon alfa plus HAART were well tolerated and exhibited high viral effectiveness in HIV/HBV treatment-naïve coinfecting patients.

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