



Winter Virology Newsletter

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Inside this issue:

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•The Iowa HIV/AIDS Community Planning Group and the Iowa Department of Public Health will be conducting an anonymous survey of people living with HIV/AIDS.

•The survey asks about the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS. The information we collect will help provide

better care and prevention services for people living with HIV/AIDS.

•The survey will be distributed during the month of March.

•A \$20 Hy-Vee Gift Card will be given to those who return the completed survey to us by March 31, 2008.

YOUR OPINION COUNTS! WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU. QUESTIONS? CONTACT HOLLY HANSON 515-242-5316

Community HIV & Hepatitis Advocates of Iowa Network

CHAIN

Thursday February 7, 2008

Advocacy Training 9:00 to 11:00 AM Elm Christian Fellowship 525 E 9th Street

Legislative Luncheon 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM Iowa State Capitol Room 116

Don't miss this opportunity to educate your legislators about health issues that are important to you!

Please RSVP by Jan 25 to Caitlin McSweeney: 214-293-3015, 515-401-9243 or caitlmc@iuiowa.com



Scholarships for lodging and transportation available.

CLINICAL TRIAL UPDATES

Goat Study: A Phase II Randomized, Controlled Trial of ^{PE}HRG214 in HIV Infected Patients with AIDS: HRG214 contains goat antibodies that target highly conserved regions on HIV not recognized by the human immune system. This antibody is administered intravenously three times weekly for up to 16 weeks. Eligibility: Adults 18 years or older, HIV infected patients with viral load >500 copies/mL and CD4 count of <220 cells/mm³, who are receiving optimized standard of care HAART. Compensation for subjects: \$250 per week.

IMPACT: A Phase IV, Multi-center, Cross-sectional study to evaluate the I50L substitution among subjects experiencing virologic failure on a HAART regimen containing Atazanavir (ATV). This study is to find out the pattern of resistance, including the I50L substitution, when you and others like you failed an ATV containing

regimen. Only one visit is required for this study. Eligibility: Adults 18 years or older, HIV infected patients who have failed a regimen containing Atazanavir (ATV), a protease inhibitor. Compensation for subject: \$ 20.

New Trials:

A Phase III Randomized, Double-Blind, Parallel-Group, Placebo-Controlled, Two-Stage Study to assess the Efficacy and Safety of Crofelemer 125mg, 250 mg, and 500 mg Orally Twice Daily for the Treatment of HIV Associated Diarrhea (ADVENT Trial). The objective of this study is to determine the optimal dose of Crofelemer and the proportion of subjects for treatment of HIV-associated diarrhea. Male or female subjects aged >18 years, with HIV-1 infection confirmed by standard serological tests and/or viral load and history of diarrhea of at least 1 month duration. Compensation provided.

Vicriviroc in combination with other antiretroviral drugs in HIV-infected persons who have failed other HIV treatments. The objective of the study is to see

if vicriviroc provides added benefit when added to optimized background therapy for HIV. Eligibility criteria: adults with HIV, viral load > 1000, and documented resistance to other HIV medications. Subjects will receive 48 weeks of treatment. Please contact Rina at 319-384-9017 for clinical trial inquiries.

*****PITCH*****

POSITIVE IOWANS TAKING CHARGE

An Organization Run By HIV+ for HIV+

Mission: HIV Positive people in Iowa can unite and assist other HIV Positive people for better health and wellness issues.

Contact: PITCH, P.O. Box 123, Garden Grove, IA 50103, (641) 443-2372

Link: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PitchIowa>

Membership Donations \$5 appreciated but not required.

New Antiretroviral Medications

Raltegravir, or Isentress™, is the first “integrase inhibitor” drug. It works by blocking the integration of HIV’s genetic code into the code of the cell being infected. When this happens, HIV infects a cell but cannot make more copies of itself. It was approved October 2007 for use in combination with other anti-HIV agents in the treatment of HIV infection in adults.

Raltegravir has shown activity against HIV that already has resistance to several other HIV medications.

Resistance to raltegravir is not well understood. With combination therapy, HIV mutates (changes) much more slowly so resistance takes longer to develop. **It is very important to take antiretroviral medications according to instructions,**

Maraviroc, or Selzentry™

is the first “attachment inhibitor” drug. It works by blocking HIV from entering human cells. It was approved August 2007 for the treatment of CCR5-tropic HIV-1 in treatment-experienced adult patients, combined with other antiretroviral treatment.

Resistance to maraviroc is not well understood. With combination therapy, resistance takes longer to develop. **It is very important to take antiretroviral medications according to instructions,**



on schedule, and not to skip or reduce doses. If you’d like help to avoid missed doses, please ask to speak with Dr. Dena Dillon, the pharmacist in clinic. Because raltegravir is in a new class of anti-HIV drugs, it seems to have almost no cross-resistance with anti-HIV drugs in older classes.

Raltegravir is taken by mouth as a tablet. The dosage is 400 mg (one tablet) twice daily. It can be taken with or without food.

The most common side effects seen in clinical trials of raltegravir have been diarrhea, nausea, headache, and fever. However, people taking raltegravir didn’t have any more side effects than other people in the studies who were not taking raltegravir.

on schedule, and not to skip or reduce doses. If you’d like help to avoid missed doses, please ask to speak with Dr. Dena Dillon, the pharmacist in clinic. Because maraviroc is in a new class of antiretroviral drugs, it seems to have almost no cross-resistance with antiretroviral drugs in older classes.

Maraviroc is taken by mouth as a tablet. Since there are many drug interactions with maraviroc, the dose depends what other medications are being taken with it. The dosage can be 150 mg, 300 mg, or 600 mg twice daily. It can be taken with or without food.

The most common side effects of maraviroc include cough, fever, dizziness, headache, lowered blood pressure, nausea, and bladder irrita-

There are no known interactions with other anti-HIV medications. However, it has not been studied with all medicines, over-the-counter drugs or vitamin or herbal supplements. Be sure your medical team knows about ALL medications, vitamins, and alternative products you are taking. Please ask to speak with Dr. Dena Dillon, the pharmacist in clinic, if you have any questions about this or any other medication.

* Stay tuned: etravirine, or Intelence™ (aka TMC-125), was approved by the FDA January 18, 2008. It will be covered in the next edition of this newsletter.



tion. People taking maraviroc also may have an increased risk for cardiovascular events such as heart attack, or dizziness when standing up quickly. Maraviroc can be hard on the liver. People taking maraviroc should tell their health care provider if they have any signs of liver problems such as rash, yellowing skin or eyes, dark urine, vomiting, or abdominal pain.

As with many of the antiretrovirals, maraviroc has drug interactions so you should tell your health-care provider about ALL medications, vitamins, and alternative products you are taking. Please ask to speak with Dr. Dena Dillon, the pharmacist in clinic, if you have any questions about this or any other medication.

References: aidsinfonet.org ; aidsinfo.nih.gov

RYAN WHITE 2007-2008 REMINDER

Just a friendly reminder that we are half way through our Ryan White fiscal year. If you have completed an application but have not sent income verification or followed through with an Iowa Care application (if applicable), please do so. In addition, if you have been assigned a Ryan White deductible and have not met it yet, please remember to send any proof of insurance premiums and/or medical/prescription receipts to be counted towards your out-of-pocket obligation. Ryan White applications for 2008-2009 will be mailed in April 2008.

***All income verification and/or proof of expenses can be mailed to Tricia Kroll (319-384-7307) or Carol Paper (319-353-7917), Internal Medicine, 200 Hawkins Dr. SW34-GH, Iowa City, IA 52242.*

REMINDERS/UPDATES

Emergent Situations

If you are unable to reach your medical provider and have an urgent need, please call the Hospital Operator at 319-356-1616 and ask for the Infectious Disease doctor on call.

\$4 Generic Prescriptions

There are 400 generic prescriptions for just \$4 available at <http://www.hy-vee.com/pharmacy/pharmacy.asp>

They have joined Wal-Mart (<http://www.walmart.com/pharmacy>) and Target pharmacies (<http://www.target.com/pharmacy>)

in an effort to make medications available to individuals and families at low costs.