

3rd in Australia: Novel antiretroviral regime

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Background/Purpose:

Perinatal acquisition of HIV is associated with challenges in antiretroviral adherence, lower rates of viral suppression, and higher incidence of acquired drug resistance. Transition from paediatric to adult care can pose additional issues. We describe the course of one such individual, with virus genotypically resistant to non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs), whose health and experience of living with HIV have been transformed by long-acting injectable (LAI) lenacapavir plus cabotegravir antiretroviral therapy (ART).

Approach:

The patient transitioned to our clinic in 2022 aged 19, having migrated to Australia in childhood to live with an adoptive parent. Suppression of viral replication had been intermittent despite ART regimen simplification to one tablet daily (darunavir-cobicistat-emtricitabine-tenofovir alafenamide) with no genotypic resistance to protease or integrase inhibitors, but M184V and multiple NNRTI mutations; CD4 T-cell count dropped steadily from 700 to 320 cells/ μ L. Attempts at improving adherence – including linkage with gender and culturally specific peer navigators, counselling and clinical psychology, off-label mode of drug delivery (dissolving Biktarvy) were not successful. An unplanned pregnancy, further complicated matters.

Outcomes/Impact:

LAI ART was offered and accepted by the patient with CD4 count having reached a nadir of 162 cells/ μ L (12% of total lymphocytes) with HIV VL 7350 copies/mL. Access to LAI lenacapavir was facilitated by Gilead, and paired with cabotegravir. Undetectable HIV VL occurred by Week 4, and maintained through Week 52; CD4 count increased to 469 cells/ μ L (21%). No missed injections, and well tolerated. She has commenced full-time employment and enjoyed overseas travel.

Innovation and Significance:

LAI has been important for things that matter to adolescents - lifestyle, no daily reminder of HIV, or being “outed” to friends, however we believe we now have a solution.

Disclosures:-

No disclosures