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(AASLD) (IDSA). (HBV). (HBsAg), HBV (HCC) [12]. (Medline search 2003-2009); (2) AASLD (AGA) [2]; (4) (NIH) " (2000, 2006), (EASL) (2009) [14]. (2008) NIH (2008) [3-7]. HBV- HBSAg- HBV- HBsAg- 2% [8,10,15-17]. 8%, 2% 7% [18,19]. (HBeAg- 5% 25-30% [20-24]. [25,26]. HBV, HBsAg-

Abbreviations: HBV, hepatitis B virus; HBsAg, hepatitis B surface antigen; HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma; HBeAg, hepatitis B e antigen; cccDNA, covalently closed circular DNA; anti-HBe, antibody to hepatitis B e antigen; ALT, alanine aminotransferase; anti-HBs, antibody to hepatitis B surface antigen; PCR, polymerase chain reaction; HCV, hepatitis C virus; HIV, human immunodeficiency virus; HDV, hepatitis D virus; HBIG, hepatitis B immunoglobulin; AFP, alpha fetoprotein; US, ultrasonography; IFN- α , interferon- α ; pegIFN- α , pegylated interferon- α .

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Potential conflict of interest: Dr. McMahon's spouse owns stock in GlaxoSmithKline. Dr. Lok has served as an advisor for Bristol-Myers Squibb, Roche, Gilead, Schering-Plough and Pharmasset and has received research support from Innogenetics, Schering-Plough, GlaxoSmithKline, Gilead, Bristol-Myers Squibb and Novartis.

Table 1. Quality of Evidence on Which a Recommendation is Based

Grade	Definition
I	Randomized controlled trials
II-1	Controlled trials without randomization
II-2	Cohort or case-control analytic studies
II-3	Multiple time series, dramatic uncontrolled experiments
III	Opinions of respected authorities, descriptive epidemiology

2

HBV-

[17]. HBV
HBsAg (anti-HBs).

HBc coreAg (anti-HBc),
HBsAg anti-

HBs

anti-HBc, HBsAg, anti-HBs.

" anti-HBc"
anti-HBc

(1) HBV- HBsAg

HBV DNA ()

HBV- (HIV-)

(2) Anti-HBc (HCV-) [27].

anti-HBs HBV-

" "

anti-HBs

HBV [28].

(3) anti-HBc

HBV-

HBV [10,28,29]. (4) Anti-HB
HBV- " "

anti-HBc IgM.

HBV- :

(1)

HBV (2),

(2)

HBV, (3)

(4)

(5)

(6)

(8)

(9) HIV HCV, (11)

(10)

(12) HBV-
HBsAg anti-HBs,

" "

(1)

HBV
HBV-

30 / (20 /)

[30,31]. HBV (3).

HBV () [10].

HBV

Table 2. Groups at High Risk for HBV Infection Who Should Be Screened¹⁷

- Individuals born in areas of high* or intermediate prevalence rates† for HBV including immigrants and adopted children‡§
 - Asia: All countries
 - Africa: All countries
 - South Pacific Islands: All countries
 - Middle East (except Cyprus and Israel)
 - European Mediterranean: Malta and Spain
 - The Arctic (indigenous populations of Alaska, Canada, and Greenland)
 - South America: Ecuador, Guyana, Suriname, Venezuela, and Amazon regions of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, and Peru
 - Eastern Europe: All countries except Hungary
 - Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Granada, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and Turks and Caicos.
 - Central America: Guatemala and Honduras
- Other groups recommended for screening
 - U.S. born persons not vaccinated as infants whose parents were born in regions with high HBV endemicity (≥8%)
 - Household and sexual contacts of HBsAg-positive persons§
 - Persons who have ever injected drugs§
 - Persons with multiple sexual partners or history of sexually transmitted disease§
 - Men who have sex with men§
 - Inmates of correctional facilities§
 - Individuals with chronically elevated ALT or AST§
 - Individuals infected with HCV or HIV§
 - Patients undergoing renal dialysis§
 - All pregnant women
 - Persons needing immunosuppressive therapy

*HBsAg prevalence 8%.
 †HBsAg prevalence 2%-7%.
 ‡If HBsAg-positive persons are found in the first generation, subsequent generations should be tested.
 §Those who are seronegative should receive hepatitis B vaccine.

Table 3. Recommendations for Infected Persons Regarding Prevention of Transmission of HBV to Others

- Persons who are HBsAg-positive should:
- Have sexual contacts vaccinated
 - Use barrier protection during sexual intercourse if partner not vaccinated or naturally immune
 - Not share toothbrushes or razors
 - Cover open cuts and scratches
 - Clean blood spills with detergent or bleach
 - Not donate blood, organs or sperms
- Children and adults who are HBsAg-positive:
- Can participate in all activities including contact sports
 - Should not be excluded from daycare or school participation and should not be isolated from other children
 - Can share food, utensils, or kiss others

Recommendation	Grade	Reference
Persons who are HBsAg-positive should:		
● Have sexual contacts vaccinated		
● Use barrier protection during sexual intercourse if partner not vaccinated or naturally immune		
● Not share toothbrushes or razors		
● Cover open cuts and scratches		
● Clean blood spills with detergent or bleach		
● Not donate blood, organs or sperms		
Children and adults who are HBsAg-positive:		
● Can participate in all activities including contact sports		
● Should not be excluded from daycare or school participation and should not be isolated from other children		
● Can share food, utensils, or kiss others		
1. Persons who are HBsAg-positive should be vaccinated with HBV vaccine (CDC (ACIP) [10,11].	1	[10,11]
2. Persons who are HBV (HBsAg- and HBV-) should be vaccinated with HBV vaccine (CDC (ACIP) [10,11].	2	[10,11]
3. Persons who are HBV (HBsAg- and HBV-) should be vaccinated with HBV vaccine (CDC (ACIP) [10,11].	3	[10,11]
4. Persons who are HBV (HBsAg- and HBV-) should be vaccinated with HBV vaccine (CDC (ACIP) [10,11].	4	[10,11]
5. Persons who are HBV (HBsAg- and HBV-) should be vaccinated with HBV vaccine (CDC (ACIP) [10,11].	5	[10,11]
6. Persons who are HBV (HBsAg- and HBV-) should be vaccinated with HBV vaccine (CDC (ACIP) [10,11].	6	[10,11]
7. Persons who are HBV (HBsAg- and HBV-) should be vaccinated with HBV vaccine (CDC (ACIP) [10,11].	7	[10,11]
8. Persons who are HBV (HBsAg- and HBV-) should be vaccinated with HBV vaccine (CDC (ACIP) [10,11].	8	[10,11]
9. Persons who are HBV (HBsAg- and HBV-) should be vaccinated with HBV vaccine (CDC (ACIP) [10,11].	9	[10,11]
10. Persons who are HBV (HBsAg- and HBV-) should be vaccinated with HBV vaccine (CDC (ACIP) [10,11].	10	[10,11]
11. Persons who are HBV (HBsAg- and HBV-) should be vaccinated with HBV vaccine (CDC (ACIP) [10,11].	11	[10,11]
12. Persons who are HBV (HBsAg- and HBV-) should be vaccinated with HBV vaccine (CDC (ACIP) [10,11].	12	[10,11]

HBe- C D [52-55].
 () peg-IFN-alpha HBe-
 [56]. HBV
 HBV-
 HBV- NIH ("Manage-
 ment of Hepatitis B", 2000, 2006), [3,4].
 HBV- HBV DNA HBeAg.
 (anti-HBe) [15,57-60]. HBeAg
 HBV- HBeAg-
 ALT [61,62]. HBV DNA,
 " " HBeAg-
 ALT [63,64].
 HBV ALT
 [23,65-67]. HBeAg
 anti-HBe. HBV-
 () [9,10,68].
 HBV DNA. ALT
 [57-60,69]. HBeAg 8-12%
 () HBeAg [26,70].
 () HBeAg ALT [58,60].
) ALT HBV ()
 HBeAg. HBe- , 67-80%
 ALT HBV DNA HBe-
 () -
 " [15,57,59,60,66,69,71].
 4% 20%
 HBeAg- anti-HBe- (ALT
 HBeAg-) , 10-30%
 HBV DNA, 10-20%
 [60,64,69,71,72]. HBV
 HBsAg- / HBeAg-
 " " HBeAg,
 [73-81].

Table 4. Glossary of Clinical Terms Used in HBV Infection

Definitions

Chronic hepatitis B – Chronic necroinflammatory disease of the liver caused by persistent infection with hepatitis B virus. Chronic hepatitis B can be subdivided into HBeAg positive and HBeAg negative chronic hepatitis B.

Inactive HBsAg carrier state – Persistent HBV infection of the liver without significant, ongoing necroinflammatory disease.

Resolved hepatitis B – Previous HBV infection without further virologic, biochemical or histological evidence of active virus infection or disease.

Acute exacerbation or flare of hepatitis B – Intermittent elevations of aminotransferase activity to more than 10 times the upper limit of normal and more than twice the baseline value.

Reactivation of hepatitis B – Reappearance of active necroinflammatory disease of the liver in a person known to have the inactive HBsAg carrier state or resolved hepatitis B.

HBeAg clearance – Loss of HBeAg in a person who was previously HBeAg positive.

HBeAg seroconversion – Loss of HBeAg and detection of anti-HBe in a person who was previously HBeAg positive and anti-HBe negative.

HBeAg reversion – Reappearance of HBeAg in a person who was previously HBeAg negative, anti-HBe positive.

Diagnostic criteria

Chronic hepatitis B

1. HBsAg-positive >6 months
2. Serum HBV DNA >20,000 IU/mL (10⁵copies/mL), lower values 2,000-20,000 IU/mL (10⁴-10⁵ copies/mL) are often seen in HBeAg-negative chronic hepatitis B
3. Persistent or intermittent elevation in ALT/AST levels
4. Liver biopsy showing chronic hepatitis with moderate or severe necroinflammation

Inactive HBsAg carrier state

1. HBsAg-positive >6 months
2. HBeAg-, anti-HBe+
3. Serum HBV DNA <2,000 IU/mL
4. Persistently normal ALT/AST levels
5. Liver biopsy confirms absence of significant hepatitis

Resolved hepatitis B

1. Previous known history of acute or chronic hepatitis B or the presence of anti-HBc ± anti-HBs
2. HBsAg–
3. Undetectable serum HBV DNA*
4. Normal ALT levels

*Very low levels may be detectable using sensitive PCR assays.

HBV (HBeAg-
 HBeAg- HBV DNA 2.000
 [82].
 HBeAg- HBV "pre-
 [83-89].
 HBV DNA HBeAg-
 (2.000-2.000.000
 200.000-2.000.000.000 IU/mL)
 ()
 HBeAg-
 HBV- [82,87,90].

0.5% HBsAg-
HBsAg anti-HBs [69,91]. HBV- HBsAg-
HBV DNA HBsAg, HDV HBV
HCC (HBsAg) [69,91-95]. HBV/HDV HCC
HBV [112,113].
HIV 6% 13% HIV
HBV- HBV/HIV
[10]. HBV DNA,
HBeAg HIV- [114]
-117]. HIV-
CD4- (HAART) " [115].
HCC, anti-HBe HBeAg, HBV/HIV
"core promoter", HCV [69,73, HAART
96,97]. HCC, HCV, HCC, HIV-
30% 50% HCC HBV- (M. avium).
[13]. HBV DNA HBV DNA HIV-
HBeAg HBV DNA HCC [51,99-102]. HBsAg - anti-HBc,
[115]. HBsAg, HIV- () HBV"
HBV- 40 anti-HBc,
4- HBV- HBV DNA.
HBV- CD4- 200 /uL (200),
HBV DNA HCC CD4- 200 HAART
HCV, HDV HIV [115,116].
HCV HCV- 10-15% HBV-
[103]. HBV HCV HBV-
[104,105]. HBsAg- HBV HCV, HBV-
HCV- HBV- [106]. HBV-
HBV/HCV- HCV, HDV HIV CDC
HCC [107,108]. HBV [118].
HDV (-), HBV [109].
HDV HBV/HDV- HBV DNA
HBV- HBV DNA,
HDV- HDV- [110]. (PCR)
" HBV HDV", () [119],
[109,111], "real-time PCR", HBV DNA

(5-10 IU/mL) (8-9 log 10
 IU/mL)[120]. HBV DNA

HBV-
 HBV DNA
 HBV DNA
 " HBV-
 [121], HBV DNA
 " HBV-
 20,000 IU/mL (10⁵ /)
 NIH 2000 [3].
 HCC
 HBV DNA.
 HBV DNA
 2,000,000 IU/mL [122].
 HBV DNA,
 HBV DNA (3-5 log 10 IU/mL)
 HBV-
 HBeAg-

HBeAg-
 ALT AST
 U/L ALT [123]. HBV-
 40).
 ALT, HBeAg-
 HBV DNA,
 HBeAg-
 ALT HBV DNA
 2,000 IU/mL (" HBsAg-
 8. HBV- " ALT 3
 5. (III) [90,122].
 ALT, ALT
 9. ALT
 6-18). (II-3) (ALT
 HBV DNA (5, 1).

Table 5. Evaluation of Patients with Chronic HBV Infection

- Initial evaluation*
1. History and physical examination
 2. Family History of liver disease, HCC
 3. Laboratory tests to assess liver disease—complete blood counts with platelets, hepatic panel, and prothrombin time
 4. Tests for HBV replication—HBeAg/anti-HBe, HBV DNA
 5. Tests to rule out viral coinfections—anti-HCV, anti-HDV (in persons from countries where HDV infection is common and in those with history of injection drug use), and anti-HIV in those at risk
 6. Tests to screen for HCC—AFP at baseline and, in high risk patients, ultrasound
 7. Consider liver biopsy to grade and stage liver disease - for patients who meet criteria for chronic hepatitis
- Suggested follow-up for patients not considered for treatment*
HBeAg+, HBV DNA >20,000 IU/mL and normal ALT
- ALT q 3-6 months, more often if ALT becomes elevated
 - If ALT levels are between 1-2 × ULN, recheck ALT q1-3 months; consider liver biopsy if age >40, ALT borderline or mildly elevated on serial tests. Consider treatment if biopsy shows moderate/severe inflammation or significant fibrosis
 - If ALT > 2 × ULN for 3-6 months and HBeAg+, HBV DNA > 20,000 IU/mL, consider liver biopsy and treatment
 - Consider screening for HCC in relevant population
- Inactive HBsAg carrier state*
- ALT q 3 months for 1 year, if persistently normal, ALT q 6-12 months
 - If ALT > 1-2 × ULN, check serum HBV DNA level and exclude other causes of liver disease. Consider liver biopsy if ALT borderline or mildly elevated on serial tests or if HBV DNA persistently ≥2,000 IU/mL. Consider treatment if biopsy shows moderate/severe inflammation or significant fibrosis
 - Consider screening for HCC in relevant population

HBeAg-
 HBV DNA,
 ALT.
 3-6 ()
 5, 1).
 ALT [58,60,64,124].
 HBeAg-
 HBV DNA
 ALT 20,000 IU/mL
 2-)
 (1).
 ALT,
 40)
 (30) HBeAg-
 ALT.
 HBeAg-
 ALT HBV DNA
 2,000 IU/mL (" HBsAg-
 ")
 ")
 ALT 3
 6-12 [90,122].
 ALT,
 ALT
 HBV DNA (5, 1).

10. HBeAg- HBV- (1):
 HBeAg- (4),
 (I)
 ALT
 ALT 3-6 . ALT
 6-12
 HBV DNA -
 ALT
 20.000 IU/mL
 1-2)
 HBeAg-
 HBV DNA 20.000 IU/mL 40 - -
 / -
 HBeAg- HBV DNA (III)
 20.000 IU/mL - ALT 2
 (ULN),
 (III)
 12. HBeAg-
 HBeAg
 2.000 IU/mL
 ALT 3
 " " -
 6-12
 (III)
 HBV DNA
 ALT AST. (III)
 HCC
 AASLD HCC [125].
 HCC (US)
 US AFP.
 AASLD
 US
 6-12
 AFP [125].
 US
 HCC
 (US AFP).
 HCC
 HCC -
 40 , 50),
 HCC 20
 ALT
 HBV DNA 2.000 IU/mL -
 US 6-12 (II-2)
 14. HBV HCC,
 US AFP. (II-2)
 ALT,
 HBeAg
 HBV DNA,

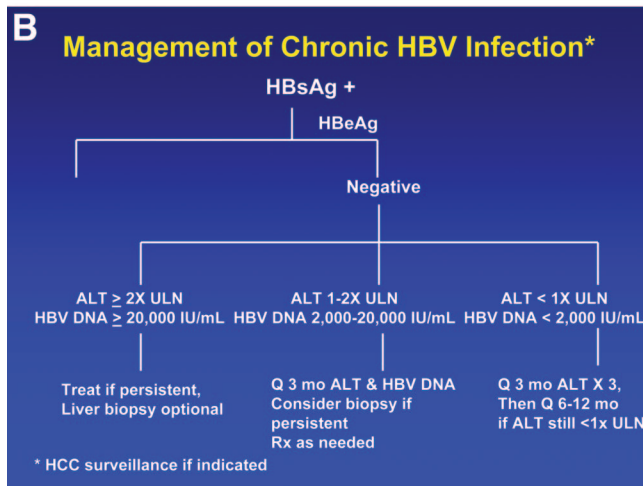
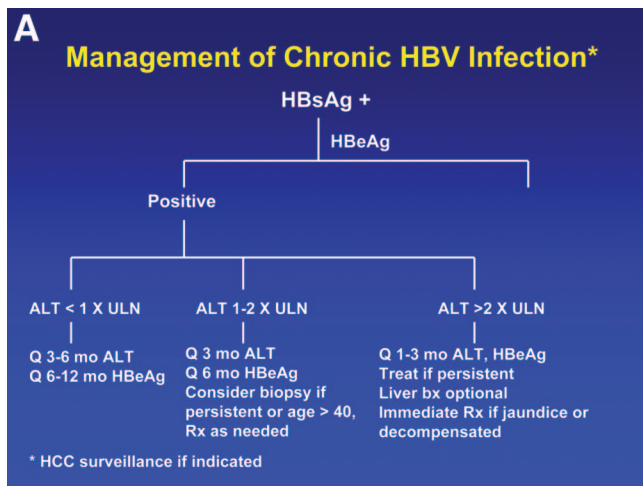


Fig. 1. Algorithm for follow-up of HBV carriers who are HBeAg-positive (A) or HBeAg-negative (B). ALT, alanine aminotransferase; ULN, upper limit of normal; Rx, treat; HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma.

()
 (HBV)
 RNA HBV DNA.
 HBV DNA.
 HBV DNA in vitro
 HBV
 HBV " HBV
 ALT
 6
 10%
 23%)
 (21%
 1%)
 [231].
 52
 150,000 IU/mL,
 HBV DNA
 48
 21%
 40%,
 HBeAg-
 81%,
 HBeAg-
 65%
 [232].
 (7.8%)
 96
 28%),
 (55%
 (75%

1. HBeAg-
 () 8).
 (III) 715
 (0.5 /) (100 /). 48
 (72% 62%),
 PCR HBV DNA: 67%
 (68% 60%)
 : 21%
 HBV DNA,
 36%
 HBeAg-
 18%
 [226].
 HBeAg-
 HBeAg-
 11%
 12%
 PCR 74%
 68%
 37%
 [227].
 HBV DNA
 ALT
 79%
 69
 74 HBeAg-
 HBV DNA < 0.7 MEq/mL (150 000 IU/mL)
 24-
 HBV DNA,
 HBeAg
 [227].
 257 HBeAg-
 III
 39%, 79%
 77%,
 ALT
 48-
 48-
 (< 0.7 MEq/mL < 150 000 IU/mL),
)
 HBV DNA
 7 (3%)
 [228].
 12 HBV DNA
 6.23
 4.42 log10 /
 58%
 19%
 48

2. HBeAg-
 () 9).
 (III) 648
 /) (100 /). 48
 (70% 61%),
 (78% 71%)
 (90%
 7%
 48%
 16%
 96
 [229].
 72%)
 [229].
 234].
 5-
 51% [235].

3.
 /
 51% [235].

4.
 HBV.
 (II)
 1.0 [230].
 HBV,
 10-250
 500
 286 HBeAg-
 (1.0 /) (100 /).
 M204V/I
 rtT184, rtS202 rtM250 [236].
 184, 202 250
 M204V/I

Parameter	Telbivudine	Lamivudine
In vitro	50	10
HBV (A-D)	12%, 23%	39%
ALT (<2, 2-5, >5)	12%, 23%	39%
HCC [237]	12%, 23%	39%
HCC	12%, 23%	39%

L-deoxythymidine (Telbivudine/LdT, Tyzeka)

Telbivudine is an L-nucleoside analogue with potent antiviral activity against HBV. Clinical trials showed that telbivudine is more potent than lamivudine in suppressing HBV replication.²³⁸⁻²⁴¹ However, telbivudine is associated with a high rate of resistance and telbivudine-resistant mutations are cross-resistant with lamivudine. Therefore, telbivudine monotherapy has a limited role in the treatment of hepatitis B.

Efficacy in Various Categories of Patients.

1. **HBeAg-positive patients** (Table 8) — A Phase III clinical trial involving 921 patients showed that a significantly higher percent of patients who received telbivudine had undetectable HBV DNA by PCR assay compared to those who received lamivudine: 60% versus 40% and 56% versus 39%, after 1 and 2 years of treatment, respectively.^{239,240} Telbivudine also resulted in a higher percent

of patients with normalization of ALT than lamivudine: 77% versus 75% (NS) and 70% versus 62% ($P < 0.05$) after 1 and 2 years of treatment, respectively. However, there was no difference in the rate of HBeAg loss at the end of 1 and 2 years of treatment: 26% versus 23%, and 35% versus 29% of patients who received telbivudine and lamivudine, respectively.

2. **HBeAg-negative patients** (Table 9) — The Phase III clinical trial which included 446 HBeAg-negative patients showed that a significantly higher percent of patients who received telbivudine had undetectable HBV DNA by PCR assay compared to those who received lamivudine: 88% versus 71% and 82% versus 57%, after 1 and 2 years of treatment, respectively.^{239,240} Normalization of ALT was observed in: 74% versus 79% and 78% versus 70% after 1 and 2 years of telbivudine and lamivudine treatment, respectively.

Telbivudine Resistance. Telbivudine selects for mutations in the YMDD motif. To date, only M204I (but not M204V) has been observed.²³⁸ Although telbivudine is associated with a lower rate of drug resistance than lamivudine, the resistance rate is substantial and increases exponentially after the first year of treatment. In the phase III clinical trial, genotypic resistance after 1 and 2 years of treatment was observed in 5.0% and 25.1% of HBeAg-positive and in 2.3% and 10.8% of HBeAg-negative patients who received telbivudine compared to 11.0% and 39.5% of HBeAg-positive and 10.7% and 25.9% of HBeAg-negative patients who received lamivudine.^{239,240}

Dose Regimen. The approved dose of telbivudine is 600 mg daily. Doses should be adjusted for patients with estimated creatinine clearance 50 mL/min (Table 10d).

Predictors of Response. Preliminary data suggest that week 24 virologic response was the most important predictor of virologic and biochemical responses as well as resistance at week 96.²⁴² However, even among patients with undetectable HBV DNA by PCR at week 24, telbivudine resistance was observed in 4% of patients by week 96.

Adverse Events. Telbivudine is well tolerated when used as monotherapy and has a safety profile comparable to lamivudine.²³⁸ However, cases of myopathy and peripheral neuropathy have been reported.^{239,240} Peripheral neuropathy appears to be more common when telbivudine was used in combination with pegIFN leading to termination of that clinical trial.²⁴³

Tenofovir (Viread)

Tenofovir disoproxil fumarate is a nucleotide analogue that was first approved for the treatment of HIV infection as Viread (tenofovir only) or Truvada (tenofovir plus emtricitabine as a single pill) and was approved for the

treatment of chronic hepatitis B in 2008. Tenofovir is structurally similar to adefovir. In vitro studies showed that tenofovir and adefovir are equipotent. Because tenofovir appears to be less nephrotoxic, the approved dose is much higher than that of adefovir, 300 mg versus 10 mg daily. This may explain why tenofovir has more potent antiviral activity in clinical studies.

Efficacy in Various Categories of Patients.

1. HBeAg-positive patients (Table 8) — In a phase III clinical trial, 266 patients with compensated liver disease were randomized to receive tenofovir 300 mg or adefovir 10 mg daily in a 2:1 ratio. At week 48, tenofovir resulted in significantly higher proportion of patients with undetectable serum HBV DNA by PCR (76% vs 13%), ALT normalization (68% vs 54%) and HBsAg loss (3% vs 0%), and similar rates of histologic response (74% vs 68%) and HBeAg seroconversion (21% vs 18%) compared to adefovir.²⁴⁴

At week 48, patients in the adefovir group were switched to tenofovir, and patients in both groups who had detectable serum HBV DNA by PCR at week 72 received, in addition, emtricitabine. In the patients who were originally on adefovir, a further decrease in the proportion with undetectable HBV DNA occurred such that by week 96, a similar proportion of patients in the two treatment groups had undetectable serum HBV DNA (78% vs 78%), HBeAg seroconversion (26% vs 24%) and HBsAg loss (4% vs 5%).²⁴⁵

2. HBeAg-negative patients (Table 9) — In a phase III clinical trial 375 patients with compensated liver disease were randomized to receive tenofovir 300 mg or adefovir 10 mg daily in a 2:1 ratio. At week 48, tenofovir resulted in significantly more patients with undetectable serum HBV DNA by PCR (93% vs 63%). The proportion of patients achieving ALT normalization (76% vs 77%) or histologic response (72% vs 69%) were similar. None of the patients lost HBsAg.²⁴⁴

At week 48, patients in the adefovir group were switched to tenofovir, and patients in both groups who had detectable serum HBV DNA by PCR at week 72 also received emtricitabine. As observed in the HBeAg-positive cohort, switching to tenofovir resulted in further virus suppression in the patients originally treated with adefovir such that by week 96, a similar percent of patients in the two treatment groups had undetectable serum HBV DNA (91% vs 89%).²⁴⁶ However, none of the patients lost HBsAg.

3. Lamivudine-refractory HBV — Several studies of patients with HIV and HBV coinfection, including one prospective randomized study of 52 patients, found that tenofovir led to a greater reduction in serum HBV DNA levels than adefovir.²⁴⁷⁻²⁵¹ Similar results have been ob-

tained in HIV-negative patients with lamivudine-resistant HBV.^{251,252}

4. Adefovir-resistant HBV — *in vitro* studies showed that adefovir-resistant HBV mutations: N236T and A181V/T are associated with 3-4 fold decrease in response to tenofovir. Clinical data on the efficacy of tenofovir in patients with adefovir-resistant HBV are limited. Available data indicate that tenofovir is effective in suppressing serum HBV DNA but adefovir-resistant mutations persist and serum HBV DNA remains detectable.^{221,222} These data indicate that adefovir resistance mutations are cross-resistant to tenofovir.

Tenofovir Resistance. One study of two patients with HBV and HIV coinfection reported that alanine to threonine substitution at position 194 (rtA194T) is associated with resistance to tenofovir.²⁵³ The association between rtA194T and resistance to tenofovir was not confirmed in another study.²⁵⁴ A recent study found that the rtA194T mutation is associated with decreased replication fitness in *in vitro* studies but replication can be restored in the presence of precore G1896A stop codon mutation suggesting that rtA194T mutation may be more likely to be selected in HBeAg-negative patients.²⁵⁵ In the two phase III clinical trials, 7 patients were observed to have virologic breakthrough during 96 weeks of treatment but tenofovir-resistant HBV mutations were not detected in any of these patients.²⁵⁶ It should be emphasized that 17 patients who had persistent detection of serum HBV DNA at week 72 and were at the greatest risk of tenofovir resistance received additional treatment with emtricitabine. Therefore, data on resistance to tenofovir monotherapy beyond 72 weeks cannot be determined from the two pivotal trials.

Dose Regimen. The approved dose of tenofovir is 300 mg orally once daily. The dose should be adjusted for patients with estimated creatinine clearance <50 mL/min (Table 10e).

Adverse Events. Tenofovir has been reported to cause Fanconi syndrome, renal insufficiency as well as osteomalacia and decrease in bone density.²⁵⁷

Other Therapies

Emtricitabine (Emtriva, FTC)

Emtricitabine is a potent inhibitor of HIV and HBV replication. FTC has been approved for HIV treatment as Emtriva (FTC only) and as Truvada (in combination with tenofovir as a single pill). Because of its structural similarity with lamivudine (3TC), treatment with FTC selects for the same resistant mutants.

In one study of 248 patients (63% were HBeAg positive) FTC 200 mg daily resulted in a significantly higher rate of histologic (62% vs 25%), virologic [undetectable

HBV DNA by PCR assay] (54% vs 2%) and biochemical (65% vs 25%) responses at week 48 compared to placebo but HBeAg seroconversion rates were identical — 12% in the two groups.²⁵⁸ FTC-resistant mutations in the YMDD motif were detected in 13% of patients.

Clevudine (LFMAU, 2'-fluoro-5-methyl-beta-L-arabinofuranosyl uracil)

Clevudine is a pyrimidine nucleoside analogue that is effective in inhibiting HBV replication in *in vitro* and in animal models. Clinical trials showed that clevudine in doses of 30 mg daily for up to 24 weeks was well tolerated. Serum HBV DNA levels were undetectable by PCR assay at the end of treatment in 59% of HBeAg-positive and in 92% of HBeAg-negative patients.^{259,260} A unique feature of clevudine is the durability of viral suppression, persisting for up to 24 weeks after withdrawal of treatment in some patients. Nonetheless, clevudine has not been shown to increase the rate of HBeAg seroconversion compared to placebo controls and *in vitro* studies suggest that it can select for mutations in the YMDD motif. Clinical trials found that rtA181T mutation which is associated with resistance to lamivudine and adefovir can be selected after only 24 weeks of clevudine treatment.²⁵⁹ Clevudine has been reported to be associated with myopathy in patients who have been treated for longer than 24 weeks, the onset of symptoms typically occurred after 8 months and mitochondrial toxicity has been documented in some patients.^{261,262} These reports have led to discontinuation of the global phase III clinical trial on clevudine.

Thymosin

Thymic-derived peptides can stimulate T-cell function. Clinical trials have shown that thymosin is well tolerated but data on efficacy are conflicting.²⁶³⁻²⁶⁷

Combination Therapies

Combination therapies have been proven to be more effective than monotherapy in the treatment of HIV and HCV infections. The potential advantages of combination therapies are additive or synergistic antiviral effects, and diminished or delayed resistance. The potential disadvantages of combination therapies are added costs, increased toxicity, and drug interactions. Various combination therapies have been evaluated; to date, none of the combination therapies has been proven to be superior to monotherapy in inducing a higher rate of sustained response. Although several combination therapies have been shown to reduce the rate of lamivudine resistance compared to lamivudine monotherapy, there are as yet no data to support that combination therapies will reduce the

rate of resistance to antiviral compounds that have a low risk of drug resistance when used alone.

Standard or pegIFN- α and Lamivudine

Treatment-naïve patients Five large trials (1 using standard IFN- α and 4 using pegIFN- α , 4 in HBeAg-positive patients and 1 in HBeAg-negative patients) have been conducted comparing the combination of IFN- α and lamivudine to lamivudine alone and/or IFN- α alone.^{55,56,156,157,160} All studies found that combination therapy had greater on-treatment viral suppression and higher rates of sustained off-treatment response compared to lamivudine alone, but no difference in sustained off-treatment virologic response compared to IFN- α alone. Although combination therapy was associated with lower rates of lamivudine resistance compared to lamivudine monotherapy, a low rate of lamivudine resistance was encountered compared to none in patients who received IFN- α alone.

IFN- α Nonresponders

Combination therapy of standard IFN- α and lamivudine is not more effective than lamivudine alone in the retreatment of IFN- α nonresponders.¹⁷⁷

Lamivudine and Adefovir

Nucleoside-naïve Patients. One trial included 115 patients randomized to receive the combination of lamivudine and adefovir or lamivudine alone. At week 52, there was no difference in HBV DNA suppression, ALT normalization or HBeAg loss.²⁶⁸ Results at week 104 were also comparable in the two groups. Serum HBV DNA was undetectable in 26% versus 14%, ALT normalization in 45% versus 34%, and HBeAg seroconversion in 13% versus 20%, in the groups that received combination therapy and lamivudine monotherapy, respectively. Although genotypic resistance was less common in the combination group, a substantial percent had mutation in the YMDD motif (15% vs 43% in the lamivudine monotherapy group). These data indicate that the combination of lamivudine and adefovir as *de novo* therapy does not have additive or synergistic antiviral effects and resistance to lamivudine is not completely prevented.

Patients with Lamivudine-resistant HBV. One small trial in patients with compensated liver disease showed that the combination of adefovir and lamivudine was not superior to adefovir alone in decreasing serum HBV DNA levels.²⁰⁹ However, hepatitis flares were less frequent during the transition period in the combination therapy group. Furthermore, recent data suggest that continuation of lamivudine reduces the rate of resistance to

Table 11. Comparison of Approved Treatments of Chronic Hepatitis B

	IFN α	Lamivudine	Adefovir	Entecavir	Telbivudine	Tenofovir
Indications						
HBeAg+, normal ALT	Not indicated	Not indicated	Not indicated	Not indicated	Not indicated	Not indicated
HBeAg+ chronic hepatitis	Indicated	Indicated†	Indicated	Indicated	Indicated†	Indicated
HBeAg- chronic hepatitis	Indicated	Indicated†	Indicated	Indicated	Indicated†	Indicated
Duration of treatment						
HBeAg+ chronic hepatitis	4-12 months§	≥1 year**	≥1 year**	≥1 year**	≥1 year**	≥1 year**
HBeAg- chronic hepatitis	1 year	>1 year	>1 year	>1 year	>1 year	>1 year
Route	Subcutaneous	Oral	Oral	Oral	Oral	Oral
Side effects	Many	Negligible	Potential Nephrotoxicity	Negligible	Negligible	Potential Nephrotoxicity
Drug resistance	—	~20%, year 1 ~70%, year 5	None, year 1 29%, year 5	~1% up to year 5‡	~25% up to year 2	None, year 1 na beyond 1 year
Cost*	High	Low	Intermediate	High	Intermediate	Intermediate

*Based on treatment duration of 1 year.

**Treatment for at least 12 months continuing for at least 6 months after anti-HBe seroconversion.

†Not preferred drug due to high rate of resistance.

§PegIFN approved for 12 months.

‡Entecavir resistance reported within year 1 in patients with prior lamivudine resistance.

adefovir.^{128,210,211} Thus, adding adefovir is better than switching to adefovir monotherapy for patients with lamivudine-resistant HBV.

Lamivudine and Telbivudine

One trial conducted in treatment-naïve HBeAg-positive patients demonstrated that the combination of lamivudine and telbivudine was inferior for all parameters of response compared to telbivudine alone.²³⁸

Recommendations for the Treatment of Chronic Hepatitis B: *Who to treat and what treatment to use* (Tables 11 and 12): Current therapy of chronic hepatitis B does not eradicate HBV and has limited long-term efficacy. Thus, careful consideration of the patient's age, severity of liver disease, likelihood of response, and potential adverse events is needed before treatment is initiated. Treatment is indicated if the risk of liver-related morbidity and mortality in the near future (5-10 years) and the likelihood of achieving maintained viral suppression during continued treatment are high. Treatment is also indicated if the risk of liver-related morbidity and mortality in the foreseeable future (10-20 years) and the likelihood of achieving sustained viral suppression after a defined course of treatment are high. Treatment is not indicated if the risk of liver-related morbidity or mortality in the next 20 years and the likelihood of achieving sustained viral suppression after a defined course of treatment are low. Because of the fluctuating nature of chronic HBV infection, the risk of liver-related morbidity and mortality and the likelihood of response may vary as patient progresses through the course of chronic HBV infec-

tion. Thus, continued monitoring is essential for risk assessment. The discontinuation of the global phase III trial of clevidine due to serious toxicity is a sober reminder that while HBV treatments have been demonstrated to be safe in clinical trials that typically last 1-5 years, data on long-term safety of these medications are limited and caution should be exercised when treatment is used for durations exceeding that of the clinical trials as is common in clinical practice.

In choosing which antiviral agent to use as the first-line therapy, consideration should be given to the safety and efficacy of the treatment, risks of drug resistance, costs of the treatment (medication, monitoring tests, and clinic visits), as well as patient and provider preferences, and for women — when and whether they plan to start a family. The pros and cons of the approved treatments are summarized in Table 11. Although the efficacy is not substantially different, pegIFN- α is likely to supersede standard IFN- α because of its more convenient dosing schedule. In view of the high rate of drug resistance during long-term treatment, lamivudine and telbivudine are not preferred except where only a short course of treatment is planned. Since adefovir is less potent than other NA and is associated with increasing rate of antiviral resistance after the first year of therapy, it is best utilized as a second line drug in treatment-naïve patients. The first-line drugs recommended for treatment of hepatitis B are pegIFN, entecavir or tenofovir. De novo combination therapy seems to be a logical approach but none of the combination regimens tested to date is clearly superior and it remains to be shown if a clinically

Table 12. Recommendations for Treatment of Chronic Hepatitis B

HBeAg	HBV DNA (PCR)	ALT	Treatment Strategy
+	>20,000 IU/mL	≤2 × ULN	Low efficacy with current treatment. Observe; consider treatment when ALT becomes elevated. Consider biopsy in persons > 40 years, ALT persistently high normal-2x ULN, or with family history of HCC. Consider treatment if HBV DNA >20,000 IU/mL and biopsy shows moderate/severe inflammation or significant fibrosis.
+	>20,000 IU/mL	>2 × ULN	Observe for 3-6 months and treat if no spontaneous HBeAg loss. Consider liver biopsy prior to treatment if compensated. Immediate treatment if icteric or clinical decompensation. IFN α /pegIFN α , LAM, ADV, ETV, TDF or LdT may be used as initial therapy. ADV not preferred due to weak antiviral activity and high rate of resistance after 1st year. LAM and LdT not preferred due to high rate of drug resistance. End-point of treatment – Seroconversion from HBeAg to anti-HBe. Duration of therapy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● IFN-α: 16 weeks ● PegIFN-α: 48 weeks ● LAM/ADV/ETV/LdT/TDF: minimum 1 year, continue for at least 6 months after HBeAg seroconversion
–	>20,000 IU/mL*	> 2 x ULN	IFN α non-responders / contraindications to IFN α → TDF/ETV. IFN- α /peg IFN- α , LAM, ADV, ETV, TDF or LdT may be used as initial therapy. LAM and LdT not preferred due to high rate of drug resistance ADV not preferred due to weak antiviral activity and high risk of resistance after 1st year. End-point of treatment – not defined Duration of therapy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● IFN-α/pegIFN-α: 1 year ● LAM/ADV/ETV/LdT/TDF: > 1 year
–	>2,000 IU/mL	1->2 x ULN	IFN α non-responders / contraindications to IFN- α → TDF/ETV. Consider liver biopsy and treat if liver biopsy shows moderate/severe necroinflammation or significant fibrosis.
– +/-	≤2,000 IU/mL detectable	≤ULN Cirrhosis	Observe, treat if HBV DNA or ALT becomes higher. Compensated: HBV DNA >2,000 IU/mL—Treat, LAM/ADV/ETV/LdT/TDF may be used as initial therapy. LAM and LdT not preferred due to high rate of drug resistance; ADV not preferred due to weak antiviral activity and high risk of resistance after 1st year. HBV DNA <2,000 IU/mL—Consider treatment if ALT elevated. Decompensated: Coordinate treatment with transplant center, LAM (or LdT) + ADV, TDF or ETV preferred. Refer for liver transplant.
+/-	undetectable	Cirrhosis	Compensated: Observe. Decompensated: Refer for liver transplant.

Abbreviations: ALT, alanine aminotransferase; ULN, upper limit of normal; IFN α , interferon alpha; pegIFN- α , pegylated IFN-alpha; LAM, lamivudine; ADV, adefovir; ETV, entecavir; LdT, telbivudine; TDF, tenofovir disoproxil fumarate.

*Treatment may be considered in patients with HBV DNA 2,000-20,000 IU/mL, particularly if they are older or have cirrhosis. Although several studies including the REVEAL study showed a correlation between serum HBV DNA and clinical outcomes such as HCC, only patients with 1 or both samples at baseline and last follow-up with serum HBV DNA > 100,000 copies/mL (>20,000 IU/mL) had significantly increased risk of HCC (Chen, JAMA).

meaningful decrease in the rate of antiviral-resistance results from combination therapy as compared to entecavir or tenofovir monotherapy.

Patients receiving IFN- α therapy should have blood counts and liver panel monitored every 4 weeks, thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) and HBV DNA levels every 12 weeks, and, if initially HBeAg-positive, HBeAg/anti-HBe every 24 weeks during treatment. Blood counts, liver panel, TSH and HBV DNA, and if initially HBeAg positive, HBeAg/anti-HBe should be tested every 12 weeks during the first 24 weeks post-treatment. Patients receiving NA therapy should have liver panel monitored every 12 weeks and HBV DNA

levels every 12-24 weeks, and, if initially HBeAg-positive HBeAg/anti-HBe every 24 weeks during treatment. In addition serum creatinine should be tested every 12 weeks for patients receiving adefovir or tenofovir. HBsAg should be tested every 6-12 months in those who are HBeAg negative with persistently undetectable serum HBV DNA by PCR assay.

Recommendations on Whom to Treat and with What Antiviral Agent (Table 12)

15. Patients with HBeAg-positive chronic hepatitis B
a. ALT greater than 2 times normal or moderate/severe hepatitis on biopsy, and HBV DNA >20,000

IU/mL. These patients should be considered for treatment. (I)

- Treatment should be delayed for 3 to 6 months in persons with compensated liver disease to determine if spontaneous HBeAg seroconversion occurs. (II-2)
- Patients with icteric ALT flares should be promptly treated. (III)
- Treatment may be initiated with any of the 7 approved antiviral medications, but pegIFN- α , tenofovir or entecavir are preferred. (I)

b. ALT persistently normal or minimally elevated (<2 times normal). These patients generally should not be initiated on treatment. (I)

- Liver biopsy may be considered in patients with fluctuating or minimally elevated ALT levels especially in those above 40 years of age. (II-3)
- Treatment may be initiated if there is moderate or severe necroinflammation or significant fibrosis on liver biopsy. (I)

c. Children with elevated ALT greater than 2 times normal. These patients should be considered for treatment if ALT levels remain elevated at this level for longer than 6 months. (I)

- Treatment may be initiated with IFN- α or lamivudine. (I)

16. Patients with HBeAg-negative chronic hepatitis B (serum HBV DNA >20,000 IU/mL and elevated ALT >2 times normal) should be considered for treatment. (I)

- Liver biopsy may be considered for HBeAg-negative patients with lower HBV DNA levels (2,000-20,000 IU/mL) and borderline normal or minimally elevated ALT levels. (II-2)
- Treatment may be initiated if there is moderate/severe inflammation or significant fibrosis on biopsy. (I)
- Treatment may be initiated with any of the 7 approved antiviral medications but pegIFN- α , tenofovir or entecavir are preferred in view of the need for long-term treatment. (I for pegIFN- α , tenofovir, or entecavir and II-1 for IFN- α , adefovir, telbivudine and lamivudine).

17. Patients who failed to respond to prior IFN- α (standard or pegylated) therapy may be retreated with nucleoside analogues (NA) if they fulfill the criteria listed above. (I)

18. Patients who failed to achieve primary response as evidenced by <2 log decrease in serum HBV DNA level after at least 6 months of NA therapy should be switched to an alternative treatment or receive additional treatment. (III)

Table 13. Management of Antiviral-Resistant HBV

Prevention	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Avoid unnecessary treatment ● Initiate treatment with potent antiviral that has low rate of drug resistance or with combination therapy ● Switch to alternative therapy in patients with primary non-response 	
Monitoring	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Test for serum HBV DNA (PCR assay) every 3-6 months during treatment ● Check for medication compliance in patients with virologic breakthrough ● Confirm antiviral resistance with genotypic testing 	
Treatment	
Lamivudine-resistance \rightarrow	Add adefovir or tenofovir Stop lamivudine, switch to Truvada* \wedge
Adefovir-resistance \rightarrow	Add lamivudine# Stop adefovir, switch to Truvada* \wedge Switch to or add entecavir# \wedge
Entecavir-resistance \rightarrow	Switch to tenofovir or Truvada \wedge
Telbivudine-resistance+ \rightarrow	Add adefovir or tenofovir Stop telbivudine, switch to Truvada

*Truvada = combination pill with emtricitabine 200 mg and tenofovir 300 mg
#Durability of viral suppression unknown, especially in patients with prior lamivudine resistance

\wedge In HIV coinfecting persons; scanty in vivo data in non HIV infected persons

+Clinical data not available

19. Patients who develop breakthrough infection while receiving NA therapy (Table 13)

- Compliance should be ascertained, and treatment resumed in patients who have had long lapses in medications. (III)
- A confirmatory test for antiviral-resistant mutation should be performed if possible to differentiate primary nonresponse from breakthrough infection and to determine if there is evidence of multi-drug resistance (in patients who have been exposed to more than one NA treatment). (III)
- All patients with virologic breakthrough should be considered for rescue therapy. (II-2)
- For patients in whom there was no clear indication for hepatitis B treatment and who continue to have compensated liver disease, withdrawal of therapy may be considered but these patients need to be closely monitored and treatment reinitiated if they experience severe hepatitis flares. (III)

20. Treatment of patients with lamivudine (or telbivudine)-resistant HBV

a. If adefovir is used, lamivudine (or telbivudine) should be continued indefinitely to decrease the risk of hepatitis flares during the transition period and to reduce the risk of subsequent adefovir resistance. (II-3 for lamivudine-resistant HBV and III for telbivudine-resistant HBV)

b. If tenofovir is used, continuation of lamivudine (or telbivudine) is recommended to decrease the risk of subsequent antiviral resistance. (III)

c. If entecavir is used, lamivudine or telbivudine should be stopped as continued presence of lamivudine- (or telbivudine-) resistant mutations will increase the risk of entecavir resistance. (II-3 for lamivudine-resistant HBV and III for telbivudine-resistant HBV). Entecavir is not an optimal therapy because of increasing risk of resistance to entecavir over time. (II-2)

21. Treatment of patients with adefovir-resistant HBV

a. In patients with no prior exposure to other NA, lamivudine, telbivudine or entecavir may be added. Alternatively, adefovir may be stopped and tenofovir plus lamivudine or emtricitabine may be used. (III)

b. In patients with prior lamivudine resistance in whom lamivudine had been stopped when treatment was switched to adefovir, adefovir may be stopped and tenofovir plus lamivudine, emtricitabine (II-2) or entecavir (III) may be used but the durability of response to this combination is unknown.

22. Treatment of patients with entecavir-resistant HBV

a. Adefovir or Tenofovir can be used as it has been shown to have activity against entecavir-resistant HBV in *in vitro* studies, but clinical data are lacking. (II-3)

23. Patients with compensated cirrhosis — Treatment should be considered for patients with ALT >2 times normal, and for patients with normal or minimally elevated ALT if serum HBV DNA levels are high (>2,000 IU/mL). (II-2)

a. Patients with compensated cirrhosis are best treated with NAs because of the risk of hepatic decompensation associated with IFN- α -related flares of hepatitis. In view of the need for long-term therapy, tenofovir or entecavir is preferred. (II-3)

24. Patients with decompensated cirrhosis — Treatment should be promptly initiated with a NA that can produce rapid viral suppression with low risk of drug resistance. (II-1)

a. Lamivudine or telbivudine may be used as initial treatment in combination with adefovir or tenofovir to reduce the risk of drug resistance. (II-2)

b. Entecavir or tenofovir alone would be an appropriate treatment in this setting but clinical data documenting their safety and efficacy in patients with decompensated cirrhosis are lacking. (III)

c. Treatment should be coordinated with a transplant center. (III)

d. IFN- α /pegIFN α should not be used in patients with decompensated cirrhosis. (II-3)

25. In patients with inactive HBsAg carrier state antiviral treatment is not indicated, but these patients should be monitored (see Recommendation 12). (II-2)

Dose Regimens

26. IFN- α and pegIFN- α are administered as subcutaneous injections.

a. The recommended dose of standard IFN- α for adults is 5 MU daily or 10 MU thrice weekly. The recommended dose of pegIFN- α 2a is 180 mcg weekly. (I)

b. The recommended IFN- α dose for children is 6 MU/m² thrice weekly with a maximum of 10 MU. (I) PegIFN- α has not been approved for treatment of chronic hepatitis B in children.

c. The recommended treatment duration for HBeAg-positive chronic hepatitis B is 16 weeks for standard IFN- α and 48 weeks for pegIFN- α . (I)

d. The recommended treatment duration for HBeAg-negative chronic hepatitis B is 48 weeks for both standard and pegIFN- α (II-3)

27. Lamivudine is administered orally.

a. The recommended lamivudine dose for adults with normal renal function and no HIV coinfection is 100 mg daily (I). Dose adjustment is needed for patients with estimated glomerular filtration rate <50 mL/min (Table 10a). (I)

b. The recommended lamivudine dose for children is 3 mg/kg/d with a maximum of 100 mg/d. (I)

c. The recommended dose of lamivudine for persons coinfecting with HIV is 150mg twice daily. Lamivudine should only be used in combination with other antiretroviral medications. (I)

28. Adefovir is administered orally.

a. The recommended adefovir dose for adults with normal renal function is 10 mg daily. (I) Dose adjustment is needed for patients with estimated glomerular filtration rate <50 mL/min (Table 10b).

29. Entecavir is administered orally.

a. The recommended entecavir dose for adults with normal renal function is 0.5 mg daily for patients with no prior lamivudine treatment, and 1.0 mg daily for patients who are refractory/resistant to lamivudine. (I) Dose adjustment is needed for patients with estimated glomerular filtration rate <50 mL/min (Table 10c).

30. Telbivudine is administered orally.

a. The recommended dose for adults with normal renal function is 600 mg daily. (I) Dose adjustment is needed for patients with estimated glomerular filtration rate <50 mL/min (Table 10d).

31. Tenofovir is administered orally.

a. The recommended tenofovir dose for adults with normal renal function is 300 mg daily. (I) Dose ad-

justment is needed for patients with estimated creatinine clearance <50 mL/min (Table 10e).

32. Duration of nucleoside analogue treatment

a. HBeAg-positive chronic hepatitis B — Treatment should be continued until the patient has achieved HBeAg seroconversion and undetectable serum HBV DNA and completed at least 6 months of additional treatment after appearance of anti-HBe. (I)

- Close monitoring for relapse is needed after withdrawal of treatment. (I)

b. HBeAg-negative chronic hepatitis B — Treatment should be continued until the patient has achieved HBsAg clearance. (I)

c. Compensated cirrhosis — These patients should receive long-term treatment. However, treatment may be stopped in HBeAg-positive patients if they have confirmed HBeAg seroconversion and have completed at least 6 months of consolidation therapy and in HBeAg-negative patients if they have confirmed HBsAg clearance. (II-3)

- Close monitoring for viral relapse and hepatitis flare is mandatory if treatment is stopped. (II-3)

d. Decompensated cirrhosis and recurrent hepatitis B post-liver transplantation — Life-long treatment is recommended. (II-3)

Special Populations

Coinfection with HBV and HCV

There is scant information on the treatment of HBV/HCV coinfection and recommendations on treatment for HBV/HCV coinfection cannot be made at this time.²⁶⁹⁻²⁷¹ Two studies on standard IFN- α and ribavirin showed no difference in sustained virologic response to HCV infection in patients with HBV/HCV coinfection compared to patients with HCV infection only. However, rebound in serum HBV DNA levels after an initial decline, and reactivation of HBV replication in patients who had undetectable HBV DNA prior to treatment have been reported. A third study showed that combination therapy with pegIFN and ribavirin was equally effective in patients with HCV monoinfection and in those with HBV/HCV coinfection.²⁷²

Coinfection with HBV and HDV

The primary endpoint of treatment is the suppression of HDV replication, which is usually accompanied by normalization of ALT level and decrease in necroinflammatory activity on liver biopsy. The only approved treatment of chronic hepatitis D is IFN- α . One study found that high dose (9 MU 3 times a week) IFN- α had higher rates of virologic and biochemical as well as histologic

response than those who received IFN- α 3 MU 3 times a week or placebo.²⁷³ Although most patients had viral relapse, improvement in liver histology was maintained 10 years post-treatment among the patients who received high-dose IFN- α .²⁷⁴ Two recent trials support the use of pegIFN- α in chronic hepatitis D, one study showed that addition of ribavirin did not improve the response.^{275,276}

Lamivudine has been evaluated in a small number of patients and found to be ineffective in inhibiting HDV replication.²⁷⁷ Combination of lamivudine and IFN does not improve response compared to interferon alone.²⁷⁸

Based on available data, high-dose IFN- α (9 MU 3 times a week) or pegIFN- α for 1 year appears to have long-term beneficial effects in patients with chronic hepatitis D.

Coinfection with HBV and HIV

Clinical studies in patients with HBV/HIV coinfection reported lower response rates to standard IFN- α treatment than those with HBV monoinfection.²⁷⁹ Responders tend to have a higher mean CD4 cell count than nonresponders. It is expected that pegIFN- α will have similar or better efficacy than standard IFN- α .

Lamivudine, emtricitabine and tenofovir are NAs with activity against both HIV and HBV.^{250,280,281} However, the rate of HBV resistance to lamivudine in HBV/HIV coinfecting patients is high, reaching 90% at 4 years.²⁸¹ Tenofovir plus lamivudine or emtricitabine are commonly prescribed as components of HAART in HBV/HIV coinfecting patients. Furthermore, tenofovir is effective against lamivudine-resistant HBV²⁴⁹ and appears to reduce the rate of lamivudine resistance when the combination is used.²⁸²

Adefovir at the approved dose for HBV (10 mg) has negligible activity against HIV. To date, no resistance to HIV has been detected up to 144 weeks in small studies.²⁸³ *In vitro* studies showed that entecavir exhibits inhibitory activity against HIV under conditions of reduced virus challenge.²⁸⁴ Entecavir has also been shown to decrease serum HIV RNA levels in lamivudine-experienced as well as in lamivudine-naïve patients and to result in the selection of M184V mutation. Therefore, entecavir should only be used in concert with HAART in HBV/HIV coinfecting patients.^{285,286} Telbivudine also has no activity against HIV but it should not be used in HBV/HIV coinfecting patients because of the risk of selection of M204I mutation in the YMDD motif.

Given that antiretroviral regimens may include drugs with activity against HBV, it is reasonable to base HBV treatment decisions on whether or not HIV treatment is ongoing or planned. In HBeAg-positive patients who are not in need of HAART, or who are already well-controlled on HAART that does not include a drug with

activity against HBV, pegIFN- α may be considered as a first-line option given its limited duration, but adefovir can also be used in this setting. It is generally recommended that candidates for IFN- α therapy have CD4 cell counts >500 cells/uL. Patients who have lower CD4 cell counts or who are HBeAg-negative may be appropriate candidates for adefovir. Finally, in HBeAg-negative patients who are likely to need HIV treatment in the future, earlier initiation of HAART may be considered.

For patients in whom HAART initiation is planned, it is best to use a regimen that includes a drug/drugs with activity against HBV. Most experts recommend using two drugs. Combinations can include tenofovir plus lamivudine or tenofovir plus emtricitabine (Truvada[®]). In the setting of confirmed lamivudine resistance in patients who are already on HAART, adding tenofovir is generally preferred.

Hepatitis flares may occur when HBV treatment is discontinued, particularly in the absence of HBeAg seroconversion. Thus, when HAART regimens are altered, drugs that are effective against HBV should not be discontinued without substituting another drug that has activity against HBV, unless the patient has achieved HBeAg seroconversion and has completed an adequate course of consolidation treatment.

Recommendations for Treatment of Patients with HBV/HIV Coinfection

33. Patients who meet criteria for chronic hepatitis B should be treated. (III)

- **Liver biopsy should be considered in patients with fluctuating or mildly elevated ALT (1-2 \times normal). (II-3)**

34. Patients who are not on HAART and are not anticipated to require HAART in the near future should be treated with an antiviral therapy that does not target HIV, such as pegIFN- α or adefovir. Although telbivudine does not target HIV, it should not be used in this circumstance. (II-3)

35. Patients in whom treatment for both HBV and HIV is planned should receive therapies that are effective against both viruses: lamivudine plus tenofovir or emtricitabine plus tenofovir are preferred. (II-3)

36. Patients who are already on effective HAART that does not include a drug active against HBV may be treated with pegIFN α or adefovir. (II-3)

37. In patients with lamivudine resistance, tenofovir should be added. (III)

38. When HAART regimens are altered, drugs that are effective against HBV should not be discontinued without substituting another drug that has activity against HBV, unless the patient has achieved HBeAg

seroconversion and has completed an adequate course of consolidation treatment. (II-3)

Antiviral Prophylaxis of Hepatitis B Carriers Who Receive Immunosuppressive or Cytotoxic Chemotherapy

Reactivation of HBV replication with increase in serum HBV DNA and ALT level has been reported in 20% to 50% of hepatitis B carriers undergoing immunosuppressive or cancer chemotherapy. In most instances, the hepatitis flares are asymptomatic, but icteric flares, and even hepatic decompensation and death have been observed.²⁸⁷⁻²⁹⁰ Reactivation of HBV replication is more common when chemotherapeutic regimens that include corticosteroids or rituximab are used.^{291,292} In addition, reactivations have been reported in HBsAg-positive persons after intra-arterial chemoembolization for HCC and other immunosuppressive therapies such as infliximab and other anti-tumor necrosis factor (TNF) therapies for rheumatoid arthritis or inflammatory bowel disease.^{289,293,294} Clinical studies including two controlled trials showed that prophylactic therapy with lamivudine can reduce the rate of HBV reactivation, severity of associated hepatitis flares and mortality.^{289,290,295-299} HBsAg and anti-HBc testing should be performed in persons who have high risk of HBV infection (see Table 2), prior to initiation of chemo- or immunosuppressive therapy. Prophylactic antiviral therapy should be administered to hepatitis B carriers (regardless of baseline serum HBV DNA level) at the onset of cancer chemotherapy or a finite course of immunosuppressive therapy, and maintained for 6 months afterwards. Viral relapse after withdrawal of lamivudine has been reported in patients with high pre-chemotherapy HBV DNA level,³⁰⁰ HBsAg-positive persons with serum HBV DNA levels $>2,000$ IU/mL prior to undergoing cytotoxic chemotherapy should continue antiviral therapy until they reach therapeutic endpoints for chronic hepatitis B.

In the renal transplant setting, a small study found that most HBsAg positive patients had increase in serum HBV DNA levels necessitating lamivudine treatment.²⁹⁸ While studies to date have focused on lamivudine, adefovir, tenofovir or entecavir could be used as an alternate treatment, particularly in patients who are anticipated to require more than 12 months of therapy in whom there is a higher risk of resistance to lamivudine. In general, entecavir is preferred because of its rapid onset of action and lack of nephrotoxicity. IFN- α should not be used in this setting because of its bone marrow suppressive effects and the risk of hepatitis flares.

While HBV reactivation can occur in persons who are HBsAg negative but anti-HBc and anti-HBs positive and in those with isolated anti-HBc, this is infrequent, and there is not enough information to recommend routine prophylaxis for these individuals.^{287,289} These patients should be monitored and antiviral therapy initiated when serum HBV DNA becomes detectable.

Recommendations for Treatment of Hepatitis B carriers Who Require Immunosuppressive or Cytotoxic Therapy:

39. HBsAg and anti-HBc testing should be performed in patients who are at high risk of HBV infection (see recommendation number 1), prior to initiation of chemotherapy or immunosuppressive therapy. (II-3)

40. Prophylactic antiviral therapy is recommended for HBV carriers at the onset of cancer chemotherapy or of a finite course of immunosuppressive therapy.

a. Patients with baseline HBV DNA <2,000 IU/mL level should continue treatment for 6 months after completion of chemotherapy or immunosuppressive therapy. (III)

b. Patients with high baseline HBV DNA (>2,000 IU/mL) level should continue treatment until they reach treatment endpoints as in immunocompetent patients. (III)

c. Lamivudine or telbivudine can be used if the anticipated duration of treatment is short (≤ 12 months) and baseline serum HBV DNA is not detectable. (I for lamivudine and III for telbivudine)

d. Tenofovir or entecavir is preferred if longer duration of treatment is anticipated. (III)

e. IFN- α should be avoided in view of the bone marrow suppressive effect. (II-3)

Symptomatic Acute Hepatitis B

Antiviral therapy is generally not necessary in patients with symptomatic acute hepatitis B because >95% of immunocompetent adults with acute hepatitis B recover spontaneously. Small case series with or without comparisons to historical untreated controls have reported that lamivudine improves survival in patients with severe or fulminant hepatitis B.^{301,302} One randomized controlled trial of lamivudine versus placebo was conducted in 71 patients. Over one half of the patients had severe acute hepatitis B as defined by two of the following three criteria: hepatic encephalopathy, serum bilirubin >10.0 mg/dL or INR >1.6. While the group treated with lamivudine had a significantly greater reduction of HBV DNA levels at week 4, there was no difference in the rate of biochemical improve-

ment. This was true for all patients and the subset of patients with severe hepatitis. Likewise, there was no difference in the rate of loss of HBsAg: 93.5% versus 96.7% at month 12 in the lamivudine and placebo groups, respectively.³⁰³ Another prospective randomized controlled trial of IFN- α showed that antiviral therapy did not decrease the rate of progression to chronic infection because all the study subjects had resolution of infection.³⁰⁴

Despite the lack of benefit from small underpowered controlled trials, an argument can be made for treating all patients with fulminant hepatitis B using a NA given its safety and the fact that many of these patients will ultimately need liver transplantation and reduction of HBV DNA levels would reduce the risk of recurrent hepatitis B after transplant. At the 2006 NIH HBV Meeting, it was also proposed patients with protracted, severe acute hepatitis B (increase in INR and deep jaundice persisting for >4 weeks) be treated. (4) Lamivudine or telbivudine would be a reasonable choice given their safety and rapidity of action, and the short anticipated duration of therapy except in patients who proceed to transplant. Entecavir can also be used but tenofovir may not be optimal because of its potential for nephrotoxicity. Adefovir is not preferred because of its weak antiviral activity and potential for nephrotoxicity. IFN- α is contraindicated because of the risks of worsening hepatitis and the frequent side effects.

Recommendations for Treatment of Patients with Acute Symptomatic Hepatitis B:

41. Treatment is only indicated for patients with fulminant hepatitis B and those with protracted, severe acute hepatitis B. (III)

42. Lamivudine or telbivudine may be used when the anticipated duration of treatment is short; otherwise, entecavir is preferred. (II-3)

a. Treatment should be continued until HBsAg clearance is confirmed or indefinitely in those who undergo liver transplantation. (II-1)

b. IFN- α is contraindicated. (III)

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