

Abacavir asociado con peor respuesta a tratamiento HCV

Third International Workshop on HIV and Hepatitis Coinfection, abstract 46, Paris, 2007.

Abacavir-containing HAART reduces the chances for sustained virological response to pegylated-interferon plus ribavirin in HIV-infected patients with chronic hepatitis C.

Barreiro P et al.

HIV/hepatitis C coinfecting patients who take abacavir (*Ziagen*) may be less likely to achieve a sustained virological response to anti-hepatitis C therapy, according to Spanish research presented to the Third International Workshop of HIV and Hepatitis Coinfection in Paris on June 8th.

A total of 38% of patients achieved a sustained virological response. Factors associated with a poorer treatment outcome in univariate analysis were genotypes 1 and 4 ($p = 0.04$), higher baseline hepatitis C viral load ($p = 0.04$), low ribavirin plasma levels at week four ($p = 0.03$), and taking anti-HIV therapy including AZT ($p = 0.03$), or abacavir ($p = 0.004$).

In subsequent multivariate analysis, lack of treatment response was associated with higher hepatitis C viral load at baseline ($p < 0.001$) and use of abacavir ($p < 0.001$), as well as genotypes 1 and 4 ($p < 0.03$).

The investigators therefore suspect that an intercellular interaction between ribavirin and abacavir could explain their initial results and recommend that patients taking both abacavir and ribavirin should have their levels of ribavirin closely monitored with doses of the drug increased if necessary.