

HepTalk Listserv Archive

June 2005

Announcements from HepTalk

Welcome to the June 2005 edition of the Listserv, a service for clinics participating in the HepTalk Project. Our focus this month is treatment for Hepatitis B and C. Please note that the articles and links below do not comprise recommendations from HepTalk, or from the CDC. They are mainly intended to stimulate discussion of issues you may find relevant to your client population.

Check the HepTalk webpage on the Migrant Clinicians Network website at <http://www.migrantclinician.org>. You can get to our page by clicking on "Clinical Excellence" on the Home page, and then clicking on "Hepatitis" on the menu at the left (<http://www.migrantclinician.org/excellence/hepatitis>).

- If others at your clinic would like to be on the listserv, or if you have questions about the listserv or resources listed here, or if you would like to add something to the posts, please contact Kathryn Anderson, HepTalk listserv administrator, at dempander@earthlink.net. You can also contact the listserv administrator if you would like to unsubscribe from the list.

1. Hepatitis B Treatment

Does your patient have chronic hepatitis B?

Coleman I. Smith, MD, hepatologist, answers questions often asked by physicians. www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2162.pdf Item #P2162 (4/05)

This is a one page pdf file from the Immunization Action Coalition. Though it addresses some diagnostic issues, it includes good, comprehensive answers to questions like "How do I manage patients who are chronically infected with HBV?" and "What kinds of treatment modalities are available for chronic HBV infection?"

Coleman I. Smith, MD, is a gastroenterologist/hepatologist at Minnesota Gastroenterology in Minneapolis. He has written articles for the Immunization Action Coalition on the care of adults who are chronically infected with hepatitis B. Dr. Smith is a member of the Advisory Board of the Coalition.

Management of Chronic Hepatitis B in Adults

Hari S. Conjeevaram, M.D. Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology University of Michigan

www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2141har.pdf Item #P2141 (1/03)

This is also a one-page, very helpful, concise pdf from the IAC. In addition to the three drugs mentioned in the above, two other drugs have been approved recently by the FDA. They are Entecavir, approved in March 2005, and Peginterferon alfa-2a approved on May 13, 2005.

From the IAC Express, June 20, 2005

FDA APPROVES PEGASYS FOR TREATMENT OF CHRONIC HEPATITIS B VIRUS INFECTION

On May 13, 2005, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Pegasys (Peginterferon alfa-2a) for the treatment of chronic hepatitis B infection. Pegasys is the only pegylated interferon approved for the treatment of chronic hepatitis B, including both HBeAg-positive and HBeAg-negative variations of chronic hepatitis B.

To access prescribing information from the FDA website, go to: <http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/drugsatfda/index.cfm?fuaction=SearchDrugDetails>.

From the IAC Express, April 4, 2005

FDA APPROVES NEW TREATMENT FOR HEPATITIS B VIRUS INFECTION.

On March 29, Bristol-Myers Squibb Company of Princeton, NJ, issued a press release announcing that FDA approved the company's drug Baraclude (entecavir) for the treatment of chronic hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection in adults. The drug is an oral antiviral therapy designed to block replication of HBV in the body by interfering with the virus's ability to infect cells. It will be available in the United States as early as April 8.

To access prescribing information from the FDA website, go to:

<http://www.fda.gov/cder/foi/label/2005/021797,021798lbl.pdf>

For a more in-depth look at recent treatment advances:

Developments in the Management of Hepatitis B

Daniel Pratt, MD. January 26, 2005 Medscape coverage of 55th Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases <http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/495209>. Note that this article was written in January, before the approval of the two new treatments/.

2. Hepatitis C Treatment

Diagnosis Management and Treatment of Hepatitis C"

http://www.aasld.org/pdffiles/Prac_Guide_Hep_C.pdf. (If this website doesn't work, please see the CDC website below).

These comprehensive practice guidelines for the diagnosis, management, and treatment hepatitis C are available on the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) website. AASLD represents more than 2,400 physicians, researchers, and allied hepatology health professionals. To visit the AASLD website, go to: <http://www.aasld.org>

You can also access this pdf file from the CDC webpage on viral hepatitis C:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitis/c/index.htm>

HepTalk is a project of the Migrant Clinicians Network and Community Health Education Concepts. HepTalk is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The goal of HepTalk is to help clinicians serving migrants and recent immigrants engage in productive discussions about hepatitis risks with their clients and help them make prevention plans. The HepTalk listserv is a support service for clinics participating in the project. This is a post-only listserv and postings will come from HepTalk staff about once a month. If others at your clinic would like to be on the listserv, or if you have questions about the listserv or resources listed here, or if you would like to add something to the posts, please contact Kathryn Anderson, HepTalk training and education coordinator and listserv administrator, at dempander@earthlink.net. You can also contact the listserv administrator if you would like to unsubscribe from the list. The content of the HepTalk listserv is compiled by HepTalk project staff.