Two New HIV Drugs Approved by the FDA

On August 30, 2018, two new medications used in the treatment of HIV were approved by the FDA. Delstrigo and Pifeltro are both indicated for treatment of naïve HIV patients and both were manufactured by Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp.

Pifeltro (doravirine) is a non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTI) recommended in combination with other antiretroviral treatments. The recommended dosage is 100 mg oral tablet taken once daily with or without food. If taken with rifabutin, Pifeltro should be taken twice daily 12 hours apart. Pifeltro is contraindicated with any medications that are strong cytochrome P450 enzyme inducers due to a decrease in concentration with concomitant use which could lead to loss of therapeutic effect and potential viral resistance. Immune reconstitution syndrome, which is when the immune response in the body develops an inflammatory response to residual opportunistic infections, can occur with use of Pifeltro. Other less common adverse effects include nausea, diarrhea, headache and dizziness.

Delstrigo is an oral tablet combination of 100 mg of doravirine, 300 mg of lamivudine, and 300 mg of tenofovir disoproxil fumarate taken once daily as a complete treatment regimen. Doravirine is an NNRTI, while lamivudine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate are nucleoside analogue reverse transcriptase inhibitors. There is a risk of hepatitis B reactivation when taking this treatment regimen so it is recommended that a patient be tested prior to initiating therapy. This product is not recommended in patients with a CrCl less than 50 ml/min. If taken in combination with rifabutin, one tablet of Delstrigo should be taken followed by one tablet of Pifeltro 12 hours later. This product can worsen renal impairment so serum creatinine, CrCl, urine glucose and urine protein should be monitored regularly. Similar to Pifeltro, Delstrigo can also cause immune reconstitution syndrome. Other adverse reactions include dizziness, nausea and abnormal dreams.

References:


Lindsay Gavin, PharmD Candidate