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Abstracts

VIRAL LOAD (VL) AND CD4 RESPONSE TO PI CONTAINING REGIMEN IN B VERSUS NON-B TREATMENT-NAÏVE HIV-1 PATIENTS (P)

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We compared the response to PI-containing HAART in B vs non-B HIV-1 naïve p. as measured by the proportion of p. with VL< 400 copies/mL and median (Md) change from baseline (BL) CD4 cell count at month (m)24. RT and PR sequencing was done by HIV ViroSeq (ABI) and viral subtype characterisation by ABL i-Subtyping and HIV-SEQ Stanford University and NCBI. Chi-square, Wilcoxon/Kruskall Wallis and Fisher's exact tests were used.

All naïve p. (n=175) starting therapy between 9/94 and 7/01 with 2 NRTIs+ 1 PI were retrieved: there were 56 B p. and 119 non-B p., including sub-types A(21p), C(25p), D(8p), G(8p), H(2p), J(1p), recombinant forms (AE 7p,AG 22p) and mosaics (22p). Most B p. were Caucasians (90%) homosexual (71%) whereas most non-B p. were Africans (89%) heterosexual (100%). Md BL VL (4.8log) and CD4 (250/µl) were comparable in both g.

No difference in the % of p. with VL< 400 c/mL was observed at m24 in B vs non-B groups (52% vs 64% ITT-missing=failure). Md VL decline at m24 was -2.0 vs -1.9log. There was a significant difference in Md change CD4 at m24 (B:+235 vs non-B:+161, p<0.02). This difference was mainly found in B vs A (and A containing) subtypes.

The HIV population starting therapy in Belgium shows a high heterogeneity of sub-types. No difference in VL response at m24 to a PI-containing regimen was found between B and non-B sub-types whereas CD4 response was lower in the non-B p., particularly those with A sub-type. Whether this is due to viral or immune factors warrants further investigation.