

NURSING CONSIDERATIONS


Assess:

- Symptoms of HIV and possible infections; increased temperature baseline and throughout treatment

Black Box Warning: Lactic acidosis

(elevated lactate levels, increased LFTs), severe hepatomegaly with steatosis, discontinue treatment and do not restart; may have large liver, elevated AST, ALT, lactate levels; women and the obese may be at greater risk; monitor serum lactate levels, LFTs, palpate liver for enlargement

Black Box Warning: Fatal hypersensitivity reactions:

fever, rash, nausea, vomiting, fatigue, cough, dyspnea, diarrhea, abdominal discomfort; treatment should be discontinued and not restarted; those with  HLA-B5701 are at great risk for hypersensitivity; obtain genetic testing for HLA-B 5701 before starting treatment, register at the Abacavir Hypersensitivity Registry (1-800-270-0425)

- Renal studies: BUN, serum uric acid, CCr before, during therapy; these may be elevated

Black Box Warning: Hepatotoxicity:

monitor hepatic studies before and monthly during therapy: bilirubin, AST, ALT, amylase, alk phos, creatine phosphokinase, creatinine

- **Blood counts:** monitor viral load and CD4 counts during treatment; watch for decreasing granulocytes, Hgb; if low, therapy may have to be discontinued and restarted after hematologic recovery; blood transfusions may be required; perform hepatitis B virus (HBV) screening to confirm correct treatment
- **Resistance:** do not use triple antiretrovirals (abacavir, lamivudine, tenofovir) in treatment-naïve persons
- **Immune reconstitution syndrome:** may occur anytime during treatment and is a response to CMV, *Mycobacterium avium* infection

- **Fat redistribution:** may occur anytime during treatment; buffalo hump, breast growth, moon face, facial wasting, trunk obesity

Evaluate:

- Therapeutic response: increased CD4 count, decreased viral load, decreased disease progression

Teach patient/family:

- That product is not a cure but will control symptoms; that patient is still infective, may pass HIV virus on to others, not to have sexual contact without condom, needles should not be shared, blood from infected individual should not come in contact with another's mucous membranes
- To carry emergency ID with condition, products taken; not to take other products that contain abacavir
- That body fat redistribution may occur; not to share product
- **Hypersensitivity:** to notify prescriber of sore throat, swollen lymph nodes, malaise, fever; other infections may occur; to stop product and to notify prescriber immediately if skin rash, fever, cough, shortness of breath, GI symptoms occur; to advise all health care providers that allergic reaction has occurred with abacavir
- That follow-up visits must be continued because serious toxicity may occur; blood counts must be done
- **Pregnancy/breastfeeding:** to consider the use of contraception during treatment; identify if pregnancy is planned or suspected; use only if benefits outweigh risk; pregnant patients should enroll in Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry at 800-258-4263; avoid breastfeeding
- To review and discuss points outlined on Medication Guide and Warning Card
- That other products may be necessary to prevent other infections and that drug is taken with other antiretrovirals
- Not to drink alcohol while taking this product
- To use exactly as prescribed, not to stop product or change dose, not to use with other products unless approved by prescriber