

Question 16 – Week of March 26

Which of the following medications can be used as monotherapy to treat patients co-infected with Hepatitis B and HIV who do NOT require highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART)?

- A. Adefovir
- B. Lamivudine
- C. Entecavir
- D. Emtricitabine
- E. All of the above

Answer: A

Patients with HBV-HIV co-infection who meet criteria for treatment for HBV, but do not require HAART, should be treated with an antiviral agent that does not target HIV. Adefovir has negligible activity against HIV, and may be used as monotherapy in these patients. Lamivudine and emtricitabine target both HIV and HBV, and should be used as part of multidrug regimens active against both viruses. In addition, the rate of HBV resistance to lamivudine approaches 90% at 4 years in HBV-HIV co-infected patients. Entecavir has demonstrated inhibitory activity against HIV in vitro, and may result in the selection of antiviral-resistant HBV mutations. Thus, it should only be used in concert with HAART.

Reference:

Lok, ASF, McMahon BJ. Hepatology 2007; 45: 507-539