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Clinical Experience With Parenteral Foscarnet. B. Öberg, S. Behrnetz, A. Larsson, J.-O. Lernestedt, and J. Sjövall. Astra Alab AB, 151 85 Södertälje, Sweden.

The antiviral profile of foscarnet (trisodium phosphonoformate, Foscavir®) includes herpesviruses, retroviruses and hepatitis B virus, all having sensitive nucleic acid polymerases. Foscarnet shows a multiexponential disposition and an oral uptake of about 17 %. Foscarnet has been given as a continuous or intermittent i.v. infusion to more than 600 patients with severe CMV infections. The majority of these patients have been immunocompromised. In AIDS patients with CMV retinitis a therapeutic effect has been observed in more than 80 % of the cases after approx. 2 weeks of foscarnet treatment. In AIDS patients preliminary data suggest a transient decrease of p24 HIV antigen levels in serum during 2 weeks of i.v. foscarnet. Preliminary results in fulminant hepatitis B suggest a beneficial effect of foscarnet. Foscarnet treatment might also be useful in infections with herpes simplex virus strains resistant to nucleoside analogues due to mutations in the viral thymidine kinase. Reversible renal function impairment is the most frequently seen adverse effect following i.v. foscarnet treatment. Combinations of foscarnet and interferon or foscarnet and AZT have shown synergistic effects against HIV replication in vitro.

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EFFECTIVE THERAPY OF EPIDEMIC HEMORRHAGIC FEVER PATIENTS WITH RIBARIVIN_ DECREASED MORTALITY & REVERSIBLE ANEMIA, HSIANG CM, GUANG MY, WANG CN, ZHANG ZM, WU ZG, GF XQ, ZHANG TM, GUI XE, HUBEI MED. COLLEGE; HUGGINS JW, CRAIGSRIFF TM, SMITH JI, LeDUC JW, MEEGAN JM, US ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Ribavirin has been proved effective in experimental infection of Hantaan virus in mice and in the treatment of Lassa fever patients. The study of ribavirin in the treatment of EHF patients with double blind ra random controlled method was done jointly by Hubei Medical College and US Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases for a definite evaluation of the drug. Two hundred and forty four patients were treated in 9 teaching and county hospitals from 1985,11 to 1987, 3. They were divided into ribavirin group of 126 cases and placebo group of 118 cases after the code was open. The mortality of the ribavirin group (3/126) was significantly lower than that of the placebo group (10/118). As to the side effect of the drug, reversible anemia was observed as it had been expected. But it was never serius enough to break the drug therapy. Therefore it is conluded that ribavirin is effective in the treatment of EHF patients during the early stage of the diaease.