

INFECTIOUS DISEASES - II
UPDATES IN PEDIATRIC HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS INFECTION

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Abstract: Human immunodeficiency virus has now evolved from a fatal condition to that of a chronic manageable disease. With newer advances both in antiretroviral drugs and diagnostics, human immunodeficiency virus treatment has become simplified and available to all those who are infected. The recent protocol of prevention of parent to child transmission has simplified therapy as well as holds promise of <2% transmission of human immunodeficiency virus thus almost decreasing new cases of pediatric human immunodeficiency virus. Every pediatrician should have the basic knowledge of retroviral therapy and the current developments. This article gives a review of all the recent advances in pediatric human immunodeficiency virus.

Keywords: Human immunodeficiency virus, Diagnosis, Infants, Children, Treatment, Prevention of parent to child transmission, Antiretroviral therapy.

Points to Remember

- *Infants born to HIV infected mothers, may continue to have maternal HIV antibodies up to age 24 months and their HIV status should be tested at 24 months to prevent false positive results.*
- *Apart from NRTI, NNRTI and PI, there are newer classes of drugs such as entry and fusion inhibitors, integrase strand transfer inhibitors (INSTIs).*
- *As per WHO, ART should be initiated in everyone infected with HIV at any CD4 cell count, regardless of clinical stage.*
- *Routine viral load testing is encouraged at 6 months followed by 12 months after initiating ART and if stable every year thereafter.*
- *As per NACO PPTCT guidelines, HIV exposed infant should be started on postpartum ARV prophylaxis for minimum of 6 weeks.*
- *Exclusive breastfeeding is recommended for 6 months and continued breastfeeds along with complementary feeds from 6 months to 1 year.*
- *Early infant diagnosis (EID) by virological testing should be done at 6 weeks of age with a repeat testing at 6 months, 12 months and 6 weeks after cessation of breastfeeds.*

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