Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in Pediatric HIV Infection

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### Table 15j. Antiretroviral Therapy-Associated Adverse Effects and Management Recommendations—Osteopenia and Osteoporosis  *(Last updated April 16, 2019; last reviewed April 16, 2019)*

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<th>Adverse Effects</th>
<th>Associated ARVs</th>
<th>Onset/Clinical Manifestations</th>
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<td>Osteopenia and Osteoporosis</td>
<td>Any ART regimen</td>
<td>Onset: Any age; decrease in BMD is usually seen soon after initiation of ART. Presentation: Usually asymptomatic. Rarely presents as osteoporosis, a clinical diagnosis defined by evidence of bone fragility (e.g., fracture with minimal trauma)</td>
<td>BMD z Score Less Than -2.0: • &lt;10% in U.S. cohorts • Approximately 20% to 30% in international cohorts</td>
<td>Longer duration and greater severity of HIV disease Vitamin D insufficiency/deficiency Delayed growth or pubertal delay Low BMI Lipodystrophy Non-black race Smoking Prolonged systemic corticosteroid use Medroxyprogesterone use Lack of weight-bearing exercise</td>
<td>Prevention: • Ensure that the patient has sufficient intake and levels of both calcium and vitamin D • Encourage weight-bearing exercise. • Minimize modifiable risk factors (e.g., smoking, low BMI, use of steroids or medroxyprogesterone). • Use TAF instead of TDF whenever possible. • Use TDF with EFV or an un-boosted INSTI. When using TDF in a regimen, consider supplementing with vitamin D3 at a daily dose of 1,000–4,000 IU. Monitoring: • Assess nutritional intake (calcium, vitamin D, and total calories). • Strongly consider measuring serum 25-OH-vitamin D levels, particularly in patients who are taking ARV drugs of concern. a • Obtain a DXA. b</td>
<td>Same options as for prevention. Consider changing the ARV regimen (e.g., switching from TDF to TAF, and/or from LPV/r to EFV or an un-boosted INSTI whenever possible). Treat patient with vitamin D3 to raise serum 25-OH-vitamin D concentrations to &gt;30 ng/mL. Vitamin D3 levels should be monitored in patients who are receiving a daily dose of vitamin D3 &gt;4,000 IU. The role of bisphosphonates in managing osteopenia and osteoporosis in children with HIV has not been established.</td>
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a Some experts periodically measure 25-OH-vitamin D. This is especially important in children and adolescents with HIV who live in urban areas; the prevalence of vitamin D insufficiency is high in that population.

b Until more data are available on the long-term effects of TDF on bone mineral acquisition in childhood, DXA scanning is not usually recommended for children who are being treated with TDF. Obtaining a DXA could be considered for adolescent women who are receiving TDF and medroxyprogesterone and for children with indications that are not uniquely related to HIV infection (such as cerebral palsy).

**Key to Acronyms:**
- ART = antiretroviral therapy
- ARV = antiretroviral
- BMD = bone mineral density
- BMI = body mass index
- COBI = cobicistat
- DXA = dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry
- EFV = efavirenz
- INSTI = integrase strand transfer inhibitor
- IU = international unit
- LPV/r = lopinavir/ritonavir
- PI = protease inhibitor
- RTV = ritonavir
- TAF = tenofovir alafenamide
- TDF = tenofovir disoproxil fumarate
References


