Tenofovir: reduced atazanavir concentrations

In the US, Bristol-Myers Squibb has issued a 'Dear Health Care Provider' letter advising that caution should be used when coadministering tenofovir disoproxil fumarate [tenofovir DF; 'Viread'] and atazanavir ['Reyataz'] in patients with HIV infection. The letter relates to two pharmacokinetic studies in which atazanavir concentrations decreased when the agent was coadministered with tenofovir DF. In one study, atazanavir AUC and C_{min} decreased by 25% and 40%, respectively, when unboosted atazanavir 400mg was coadministered with tenofovir DF 300mg in healthy volunteers, compared with atazanavir alone. In the second study, atazanavir AUC and C_{min} were decreased by 25% and 23%, respectively, when boosted atazanavir (atazanavir 300mg + ritonavir 100mg) was coadministered with tenofovir DF 300mg in HIV-infected patients, compared with boosted atazanavir alone. In addition, atazanavir AUC and C_{min} values following coadministration of boosted atazanavir and tenofovir DF were 1.2 and 4 times higher than these respective values following administration of unboosted atazanavir alone.

Based on the results of these studies, the letter advises clinicians that, in patients taking concomitant tenofovir disoproxil fumarate, unboosted atazanavir may be less effective due to decreased concentrations, which may lead to "*loss or lack of virologic response and possible resistance to REYATAZ*".

US Food and Drug Administration. Re: important new pharmacokinetic data for REYATAZ TM (atazanavir sulfate) in combination with Viread (Rm) (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate). Internet Document : [2 pages], 8 Aug 2003. Available from: URL: http://www.fda.gov

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