

Anesthesiology Rounds
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Anesthetic Considerations with Non-AIDS HIV-Positive Patients

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Objectives:

- Recognize the importance of lymphocyte CD₄ counts in the preoperative assessment of HIV-infected patients
- Identify the main side effects associated with different classes of antiretrovirals
- Understand the principles of managing antiretroviral treatment during the perioperative period;
- Develop ability to adjust an anesthetic plan for potential drug interactions in patients undergoing antiretroviral therapy
- Become familiar with the guidelines for caring for HIV-infected pregnant women.

Questions

1. Which one of the following statements about withdrawing antiretrovirals is true?
 - a) Withdrawal is strongly recommended before any surgery to minimize drug interactions.
 - b) When antiretroviral therapy is stopped, intravenous zidovudine administration is recommended.
 - c) If unavoidable, all antiretrovirals should be stopped the morning of surgery.
 - d) Even briefly stopping antiretrovirals can lead to a sharp rise in viral load.
2. Which one of the following statements regarding the intravenous bolus administration of fentanyl to a patient receiving protease inhibitor treatment is true?
 - a) Administering the same dose, but at less frequent intervals, is recommended.
 - b) Administering a reduced dose at the same interval is recommended.
 - c) Administering a reduced dose less frequently is recommended.
 - d) No adjustments are necessary.

3. Which one of the following statements about antiretroviral-induced hyperlactatemia is false?
- a) In newborns, in utero exposure and administration of antiretrovirals during the neonatal period can cause the hyperlactatemia to persist for up to six months after birth.
 - b) In 8% to 18% des patients, mitochondrial respiratory chain toxicity caused by protease inhibitors is responsible for hyperlactatemia.
 - c) The mortality rate associated with lactic acidosis exceeds 50%.
 - d) If hyperlactatemia is asymptomatic and the level is < 5 mmol/L, the antiretroviral treatment does not have to be adjusted.
4. Which one of the following statements about an adult patient with a CD₄ count between 200 and 500 cells/mm³ is true?
- a) If dyspneic in the recovery room, the most likely diagnosis is *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia.
 - b) Regardless of age, a pre-op ECG is recommended.
 - c) In thrombocytopenic patients requiring semi-urgent surgery, the treatment of choice is to start antiretrovirals.
 - d) Muscular weakness is a common sign of HIV-infection-induced neuropathy.

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