



Better Pharmacist Knowledge

Jordan Drug Information and Toxicology Center 2023

October

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Statins for primary prevention of cardiovascular disease in persons with HIV (September 2023)

For persons ≥ 40 years of age with HIV and a low-density lipoprotein cholesterol ≥ 190 and/or a 10-year ASCVD score ≥ 7.5 percent, **statins are recommended**. It also suggested that a statin for such patients with a 10-year ASCVD score of 5 to 7.4 percent. For those with lower risk the absolute benefit is smaller.

Statins are recommended in all persons ≥ 40 years of age with an ASCVD score ≥ 5 percent, particularly if the score is ≥ 7.5 percent; for those with lower baseline risk, although the absolute benefit of statins is smaller. For persons younger than 40 years of age, the approach is the same as in persons without HIV. [1]

Dupilumab for prurigonodularis (August 2023)

Prurigonodularis (PN) is a chronic skin disorder characterized by severe pruritus and multiple itchy nodules predominantly located on the extremities. Treatment to date focuses on interrupting the itch-scratch cycle. In a phase 3 trial that included 151 adults with PN, more patients in the dupilumab achieved a ≥ 4 point reduction in the Worst Itch Numeric Rating Scale at 24 weeks compared with placebo (60 versus 18 percent, respectively). Similar results were achieved as early as at 12 weeks in a second identical trial with 160 patients. In both trials, more patients in the dupilumab groups achieved an Investigator Global Assessment score of clear/almost clear at 24 weeks, compared with patients in the placebo groups. **The safety profile of dupilumab was generally good**. So it is suggested the use of **dupilumab for patients with widespread or recalcitrant PN who are candidates for systemic therapy.** [2]

Over-the-counter opioid antagonist for opioid overdose (September 2023)

Drug overdose is a major public health problem; opioids were reported to be involved in nearly 80 percent of the 600,000 overdose deaths worldwide in 2019. The increasing rate of fatal overdose is driven by the presence of the synthetic opioid **fentanyl**. **Naloxone (4 mg) nasal spray** rapidly reverses the effects of opioid overdose and is now the **first opioid antagonist agent available for over-the-counter purchase in the United States**. The increased availability is part of an ongoing effort by the US Food and Drug Administration Overdose Prevention Framework to encourage harm reduction through developing and expanding access to novel overdose reversal products. [3]

No benefit of opioids for acute low back pain (August 2023)

Opioid analgesics are often used to treat acute low back pain despite limited supporting evidence. In a randomized trial of 347 adults presenting to the emergency department or primary care clinic with acute, nonspecific low back pain, **oxycodone** (up to 20 mg daily for six weeks) was no more effective for pain relief or functional improvement than placebo. There was a higher risk of potential opioid misuse in patients in the oxycodone group at one-year follow-up (20 versus 10 percent). These results support our **recommendation against routine opioid use for acute low back pain, given the lack of benefit and potential for misuse.**



References:

1. Statins for primary prevention of cardiovascular disease in persons with HIV (September 2023), accessed online via uptodate. , cited on 27 Sep 2023.
2. Dupilumab for prurigonodularis (August 2023), accessed online via uptodate, cited on 27 Sep 2023
3. Over-the-counter opioid antagonist for opioid overdose (September 2023), accessed online via uptodate. , cited on 27 Sep 2023
4. No benefit of opioids for acute low back pain (August 2023), accessed online via uptodate. , cited on 27 Sep 2023

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The 'Triple G' Agonist for Obesity Management (September 2023)

The **three hormones associated with obesity or diabetes** are **glucagon-like peptide 1 (GLP-1), glucose-dependent insulinotropic peptide (GIP), and glucagon.**

Though these hormones are more commonly thought of as incretins, gut hormones that stimulate postprandial insulin secretion, their role in energy physiology is more diverse. Due to multiple mechanisms of action, incretins are increasingly referred to as **nutrient-stimulated hormones (NuSH).**

Preclinical studies on the newest NuSH therapy, triple GLP-1–GIP–glucagon receptor agonist **Retatrutide** showed predominant activity at the GIP receptor, with less GLP-1– and glucagon-receptor agonism than that of endogenous GLP-1 and GIP. Results from a phase 2 trial published in June 2023 showed a weight loss of 24% at 48 weeks in adults with obesity treated with retatrutide, which is the greatest weight loss reported in an obesity trial so far. Moreover, for the first time in obesity pharmacotherapy research, **100% of participants achieved clinically significant weight loss (defined as $\geq 5\%$ of baseline weight).**[1]

New Antibiotic Could Combat Multidrug-Resistant Superbugs (September 2023)

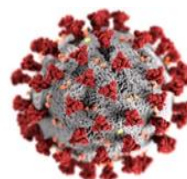
Antibiotic resistance is a major public health problem. Few new molecules are in development, but a new antibiotic called **Clovibactin** brings hope. This drug, isolated from bacteria that haven't previously been studied, **seems to be capable of combating multidrug-resistant "superbugs"** thanks to unusual mechanisms of action.

The drug was discovered and has been studied by scientists from Utrecht University in the Netherlands, the University of Bonn in Germany, the German Center for Infection Research, Northeastern University in Boston, and NovoBiotic Pharmaceuticals in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Since **Clovibactin** was isolated from bacteria that could not be grown before, pathogenic bacteria have not seen such an antibiotic before and had no time to develop resistance," said Markus Weingarth, MD, PhD, researcher in Utrecht University's chemistry department, in a press release.[2]

Adjunctive immunomodulators for severe COVID-19 (August 2023)

For patients hospitalized for COVID-19 who require **high-flow oxygen or ventilatory support**, we suggest **adding baricitinib or tocilizumab to dexamethasone to further reduce mortality.** Other immunomodulatory agents may also improve outcomes. In a randomized trial of patients with severe COVID-19, most of whom were on remdesivir and glucocorticoids, infliximab and abatacept each reduced 28-day mortality compared with placebo (10 and 11 versus 15 percent) but did not improve time to clinical improvement. Despite their potential efficacy, **we do not routinely use infliximab or abatacept for COVID-19**, because they do not offer clear advantages over baricitinib or tocilizumab, which have more established benefit and, in the United States, are approved for this indication.[3]



Sacituzumab govitecan in hormone receptor-positive, HER2-negative metastatic breast cancer (August 2023)

Sacituzumab govitecan (SG) is an antibody-drug conjugate that previously showed progression-free survival benefits over clinician's choice of therapy in patients with metastatic, heavily pretreated, hormone receptor (HR)-positive, HER2-negative breast cancer; overall survival results from that randomized trial are now available. Among 543 patients, the overall survival with SG was 14.4 versus 11.2 months with clinician's choice of therapy. **SG has regulatory approval in the United States for patients with unresectable locally advanced or metastatic HR-positive, HER2-negative breast cancer who have received endocrine-based therapy and at least two additional systemic therapies in the metastatic setting.** [4]

References:

1. The 'Triple G' Agonist for Obesity Management: 5 Things to Know September 25, 2023, accessed online via Medscape, cited on 27 Sep 2023.
2. New Antibiotic Could Combat Multidrug-Resistant Superbugs September 15, 2023, accessed online via Medscape, cited on 27 Sep 2023.
3. Adjunctive immunomodulators for severe COVID-19 (August 2023), accessed online via Up To Date, cited on 27 Sep 2023.
4. Sacituzumabgovitecan in hormone receptor-positive, HER2-negative metastatic breast cancer (August 2023), accessed online via Up To Date, cited on 27 Sep 2023.

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