

COMPARATIVE SUBACUTE TOXICITY OF INTRAVENOUS ARTESUNATE AND ARTELINATE IN THE RHESUS MONKEY

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A comparison of the subacute toxicity of the two leading intravenous artemisinin formulations, sodium artesunate (AS) and artelinate lysine (AL) salt, was performed in rhesus monkeys. Maximum tolerated dose for AS and AL was determined using an escalating single dose study. Based on these results a 7-day subacute toxicology study was designed with four AL groups (vehicle control, 5.9 mg/kg, 11.8 mg/kg and 47.2 mg/kg) and six AS groups (vehicle control, 4 mg/kg, 8 mg/kg, 16 mg/kg, 32 mg/kg and 128 mg/kg). Test compound was administered once daily for 7 consecutive days as a rapid intravenous injection. Animals were humanely euthanized 14 days after completion of drug therapy and a complete necropsy was performed. Additional study parameters included clinical observations, food intake, body weight, routine serum chemistry, urinalysis and complete blood count with reticulocyte count. Results showed that the drugs had different toxicity patterns with dose-related toxicities. AS was most associated with reversible reticulocytopenia and leucopenia, and thrombocytopenia at high doses. Diarrhea developed at 16 mg/kg or greater by the end of treatment and resolved about a week after completion of dosing. Highest doses (128 mg/kg) were associated with vomiting and severe, bloody diarrhea. Liver and renal functions were minimally affected. AL caused no diarrhea and modest reticulocytopenia. However, moderately elevated liver function tests and creatinine were noted, and hemolysis and hemoglobinuria were seen more frequently than at equimolar doses of AS. The no adverse effect levels were 4 mg/kg and 11.8 mg/kg for AS and AL, respectively. Both drugs caused transient drooling, reduced motor activity and balance disturbances at doses greater than 32 mg/kg, and AL caused marked sedation at higher doses. Only rare clinical neurologic disturbances were noted 2 hours after any treatment, and the brainstem neuropathologic lesions seen with oil-soluble artemisinin derivatives were not present at the time point examined. Overall AS was judged to be less toxic than AL.

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EFFICACY OF MONTHLY TAFENOQUINE FOR PROPHYLAXIS OF *PLASMODIUM VIVAX* AND MULTIDRUG-RESISTANT *P. FALCIPARUM* MALARIA

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We assessed monthly doses of tafenoquine for preventing *Plasmodium vivax* and multidrug-resistant *P. falciparum* malaria. In a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study, 205 Thai soldiers received either a loading dose of tafenoquine 400 mg (base) daily for 3 days, followed by single monthly 400-mg doses ($n = 104$), or placebo ($n = 101$), for up to 5 consecutive months. In volunteers completing follow-up (96 tafenoquine and 91 placebo recipients), there were 22