

Long Term Antiviral Combination Chemotherapy for Duck Hepatitis B Virus Infection using Ganciclovir and Nalidixic Acid *in vivo*. C Luscombe, Y Wang, J Pedersen, S Locarnini. Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory and Macfarlane Burnet Centre for Medical Research, Fairfield Hospital, Victoria 3078 and Melbourne Pathology, Collingwood, Victoria 3066, Australia.

Ganciclovir and nalidixic acid were used in long term (12 weeks) combination therapy in order to inhibit hepadnaviral replication *in vivo*. Using the duck hepatitis B virus (DHBV) as a model for chronic hepadnaviral infection, 6-week old ducks congenitally infected with DHBV were treated with the combination of nalidixic acid and ganciclovir for a 12 week period. This treatment resulted in a rapid decrease in DHBV DNA and RNA replication in the liver. The intrahepatic expression of the viral gene products, envelope and core, were significantly reduced in all birds. In addition, the level of the DHBV transcriptional template, viral supercoiled DNA, was reduced by more than 70%. Twelve weeks of combination therapy was not associated with any systemic adverse effects or cytotoxicity in the liver. Six animals were then enrolled for a 24 week treatment study. Unfortunately, four birds died of complications of therapy, including hepatotoxicity, at 17-21 weeks. Birds treated with either monotherapy over the same period of time did not have evidence of general systemic or liver cytotoxicity. This study has demonstrated that ganciclovir and nalidixic acid combination therapy has potent anti-hepadnaviral activity over 12 weeks of treatment, however any longer term therapy must be carefully monitored.

Efficacy of treatment with small dosage Interferon for Hepatitis C virus

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41 Cases hepatitis patients have been tested by sera for Anti-HAVM, HBsAg, Anti-HBs, HBeAg, Anti-HBc, Anti-HBcIgM are negative and for Anti-HCV, HCV with PCR are positive. All of these patients are hepatitis C virus. 23 cases of them is treatment group treated with a-Interferon 10 IU every other day, three times a week for three months, 20 cases of AntiHCV are negative, the negative rate is 87%, 22 cases of ALT are recovery, the rate is 85.7%. 18 cases of them is control group treated with oral protected hepatic medicines and vitamins B, C, yeast every day for three months, 5 cases of AntiHCV are negative, the rate is 27.8%. 10 cases of ALT are recovery, the rate is 55.6%. The results show that is the better effect of treatment with small dosage Interferon for hepatitis C virus.