

MOTHER TO CHILD TRANSMISSION OF HIV PREVENTION KIT DRUG INFORMATION FOR PARENT/CAREGIVER

****Please review and send home with the baby's caregiver****

1) Giving Zidovudine (ZDV) to Baby

DRUG NAME: Zidovudine (AZT,ZDV)

BRAND NAME: Retrovir®

INSTRUCTIONS:

The Dose of ZDV liquid for your baby is _____ ml given at the following times:

_____ a.m. /p.m. _____ a.m./p.m. _____ a.m./p.m. _____ a.m./p.m.

BENEFITS OF ZDV:

- ZDV, an antiviral drug that slows the growth of the HIV virus, has been shown in a large multinational study to decrease the risk of a mother passing the HIV virus to her baby when it is taken by the mother during pregnancy and delivery, and by the baby for 6 weeks after birth.
- The use of ZDV has greatly reduced the risk of the baby being infected, however it does not prevent all infections.
- ZDV is given as part of a protocol that has two parts:

Mother: . During labour and delivery, ZDV will be given intravenously (IV) to the mother until the baby is delivered.

Baby: ZDV 2 mg/Kg by mouth every six hours for *six weeks*. The first dose of ZDV is usually given within eight to twelve hours after birth. Make sure you know the correct dose for your baby before you leave the hospital.

HOW TO GIVE ZDV oral liquid to infants:

- ZDV is available as a syrup which tastes like strawberries. Each millilitre (mL or cc) contains 10 mg of the drug (written as 10 mg/mL on the label). Each dose for a baby is usually less than 1 ml.
- ZDV syrup may be kept at room temperature.
- **Always measure each dose with the specially marked oral syringe provided.**
- ZDV can be given with food or on an empty stomach. It is easiest to give the medicine to the baby just before, or during a feeding. Gently slip the oral syringe in the baby's mouth just inside the cheek, and with 4 or 5 gentle pushes on the plunger of the syringe, administer the medicine.
- It should be given at the same times each day- if your baby feeds on a fairly regular schedule, such as every 2 or 3 hours, you can give the medicine before a feeding. If your baby has no regular feeding schedule, give the ZDV every 6 hours.

IF YOU FORGET A DOSE:

- Give it as soon as you remember that day. If it is less than 2 hours until the next scheduled dose, give the missed dose now and space the remaining doses evenly throughout the rest of the day.

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- Do NOT give a double dose of this medication.
- If your child vomits within 15 minutes of the dose, give another dose if possible. If it is after 15 minutes, do NOT give another dose, just give the next dose when scheduled.

If you have difficulty remembering to give this medication, try setting an alarm to remind you, or ask your pharmacist for a “Beeper” – which will remind you to give the medicine

****IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO GIVE EVERY DOSE OF THIS MEDICINE****

PROBLEMS WHICH MAY BE ENCOUNTERED by BABY:

- Adverse effects on the baby were not observed with ZDV use in pregnancy during the research trials, and no long-term effects have been seen in children who have been followed for up to five years now.
- Mild anemia (low red blood cells) and neutropenia (low white blood cells) has been noted in some babies receiving ZDV. These conditions are usually mild and resolve when the medication dosage is reduced or the drug is discontinued.
- Blood tests will also be done on your baby at 2 and 4 weeks after birth to check for these side effects.

****IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO KEEP ALL FOLLOW-UP MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS FOR THE BABY****

CAUTIONS:

- You will be given the whole bottle of ZDV , which is more than enough to complete the six weeks of therapy. Bring any expired or leftover medications to the Oak Tree Clinic at a follow-up visit.
- Keep out of the reach of all children. The doctor or the Poison Control Centre should be contacted in the event of accidental ingestion of this or any other drug.

2) Nevirapine

As part of this protocol, your baby may have received another drug that slows the growth of the HIV virus, called Nevirapine.

- Nevirapine is given by mouth as one single dose, so you will not need to give any more to the baby at home.
- When it is given as one single dose nevirapine is very well tolerated- only mild adverse effects on babies were seen during research trials. These included:
 - :mild skin rash or low red blood cells (anemia)
 - :no other side effects have been seen yet in babies who have been followed for 1-2 years
- The blood tests done at 2 and 4 weeks of age will check for these side effects

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THESE MEDICATIONS YOU CAN CALL THE PHARMACIST AT THE OAK TREE CLINIC IN VANCOUVER 604-875-2212 Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Evenings or weekends you can call the Centre for Excellence in HIV Pharmacy Hotline at 1-888-511-6222. This is a toll-free number from anywhere in B.C.