RESEARCH ARTICLE

Risk of Severe Acute Exacerbation of Chronic HBV Infection Cancer Patients Who Underwent Chemotherapy and Did Not Receive Anti-Viral Prophylaxis

Chih-An Shih1,2,3, Wen-Chi Chen1,3, Hsien-Chung Yu1,3, Jin-Shiung Cheng1,2, Kwok-Hung Lai1,3, Jui-Ting Hsu4, Hui-Chun Chen4*, Ping-I Hsu1,3*

1 Division of Gastroenterology, Department of Internal Medicine, Kaohsiung Veterans General Hospital, Kaohsiung City, Taiwan, 2 Division of General Internal Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Kaohsiung Veterans General Hospital, Kaohsiung City, Taiwan, 3 National Yang-Ming University, Taipei City, Taiwan, 4 Department of Radiation Oncology, Kaohsiung Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Kaohsiung City, Taiwan

* williamhsup@yahoo.com.tw (PIH); jeni1722@adm.cgmh.org.tw (HCC)

Abstract

Background

Reactivation of HBV replication with an increase in serum HBV DNA and alanine aminotransferase (ALT) activity has been reported in 20–50% of hepatitis B carriers undergoing cytotoxic chemotherapy for cancer treatment. Manifestation of HBV reactivation ranges from asymptomatic self-limiting hepatitis to severe progressive hepatic failure and fatal consequences.

Aim

To investigate the risk of severe acute exacerbation of chronic HBV infection in HBsAg-positive cancer patients with solid tumors or hematological malignancies who underwent chemotherapy without antiviral prophylaxis.

Methods

A retrospective review of charts was conducted for HBsAg-positive cancer patients in our institution who underwent chemotherapy and did not receive anti-viral prophylaxis between the periods of July 2007 to January 2013. We investigate the incidence of severe acute exacerbation of chronic HBV infection if these patients with a variety of solid tumors and hematological malignancies.

Results

A total of 156 patients (hematological malignancies: 16; solid tumors: 140) were included. The incidence of severe acute HBV exacerbation in the patients with hematological malignancy was higher than that in solid tumors (25.0% [4/16] vs 4.3% [6/140]; P = 0.005).
Additionally, patients receiving rituximab-based chemotherapy had higher acute exacerbation rate than those with non-rituximab-based chemotherapy (40.0% vs 4.1%, P = 0.001). Among the patients with solid tumors, the incidences of severe acute exacerbation of chronic HBV in hepatocellular carcinoma, colorectal cancer, lung cancer, breast cancer, gynecological cancer, urological tract cancer, head/neck cancer and other solid malignancies were 2.3%, 4.0%, 7.1%, 9.0%, 16.7%, 6.7%, 0% and 0%, respectively.

**Conclusion**

Severe acute exacerbation of chronic HBV infection may occur in HBsAg-positive patients with a variety of solid tumors who received chemotherapy without adequate anti-viral prophylaxis. Hematological malignancy and rituximab-based chemotherapy are the risk factors related to severe acute exacerbation of chronic HBV infection in HBsAg-positive cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy.

**Introduction**

Hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection is a global major health problem, with an estimate of 400 million chronic carriers of the HBV surface antigen (HBsAg) worldwide [1]. Chronic HBV infection is endemic in many parts of the world and in several populations, particularly in Asia, over 10% of the adult population are chronically infected with HBsAg-positive status [1–3]. Reactivation of HBV replication with an increase in serum HBV DNA and alanine aminotransferase (ALT) activity has been reported in 20–50% of hepatitis B carriers undergoing cytotoxic chemotherapy for cancer treatment without anti-viral prophylaxis [4–9]. A previous study has reported that the reactivation rate of HBV infection after chemotherapy was as high as 73% [10]. HBV reactivation has been reported frequently in patients diagnosed to have lymphoma or breast cancer and those who have received anticancer chemotherapy, and in this setting, the use of anthracyclines and corticosteroids as part of the chemotherapeutic combination and/or anti-emetic pre-medication were the factors shown to be associated with HBV reactivation [4,11]. Manifestation of HBV reactivation ranges from asymptomatic self-limiting hepatitis to severe progressive hepatic failure and fatal consequences [12–13].

Administering oral anti-HBV agents before chemotherapy is an effective means of reducing acute exacerbation of HBV infection and preventing fatal complications in patients with chronic HBV infection [14,15]. Both the American Association of Study in Liver Diseases (AASLD) and the European Association for the Study of Liver Disease (EASL) have recommended HBV testing before starting chemotherapy and administering oral anti-viral agents for HBsAg-positive patients [13,16]. However, the HBV infection testing rates before chemotherapy are extremely low, ranging from 14% to 31% [17–19]. A low HBV testing rate before chemotherapy is possibly owing to that chemotherapy is conducted by physicians from various hospital departments whose perceptions with respect to the importance of pre-chemotherapy HBV screening and HBV prophylaxis widely vary [20]. Currently, the exact severe acute exacerbation rates of chronic HBV infection in HBsAg-positive cancer patients with various solid tumors receiving chemotherapy have rarely been systemically assessed. In addition, most studies investigating flare-up of HBV infection in cancer patients receiving chemotherapy dealt with reactivation of HBV infection but not clinically significant acute exacerbation events [9].
In this study we aimed to investigate the risk of severe acute exacerbation of chronic HBV infection in HBsAg-positive cancer patients with solid tumors and hematological malignancies who underwent chemotherapy without antiviral prophylaxis in a HBV endemic area. The severe acute exacerbation rates of HBV infection in HBsAg-positive cancer patients with various solid tumors who underwent chemotherapy without HBV prophylaxis were systematically investigated.

Materials and Methods

Patients

We conducted a retrospective review of charts of newly diagnosed cancer patients who underwent systemic intravenous or oral chemotherapy at our institution between the periods of July 2007 to January 2013. This study was approved by Veteran General Hospital Kaohsiung (VGHKS) institutional review board, which waived informed consent requirement (VGHKS13-CT6-12) and the patient record was anonymized and de-identified prior to analysis. Patients with positive test of HBsAg at the onset of chemotherapy who did not receive antiviral prophylaxis were included for the study. Exclusion criteria included (1) local chemotherapy with intracavity instillation of cytotoxic agents, (2) cancer treatment with small molecule kinase inhibitor targeted therapy (e.g., imatinib, sorafenib) or hormone therapy alone, (3) drug or alcohol related hepatitis, and (4) patients with positive results of serum anti-HCV antibody. This study was approved by our institutional review board, which waived informed consent requirement.

Study Design

Patient charts were reviewed and data were recorded regarding age, gender, type of malignancy, tumor stage, chemotherapy agents, viral markers, HBV viral load and results of serum liver biochemical tests, creatinine level and prothrombin time from starting chemotherapy to 6 months after chemotherapy. Types of cancer were classified as hematological malignancy and solid tumor. Tumor stages were classified according to the AJCC TNM staging system. Type of chemotherapy was classified according to the presence of rituximab or not [14].

Because not all patients with HBV infection had data of HBV DNA level at baseline, the incidence of HBV reactivation could not be determined and was not included as outcome measure. Instead, main outcome measure was severe acute exacerbation of HBV infection. Severe acute exacerbation of HBV infection was defined as (1) serum alanine aminotransferase (ALT) increased beyond 10 times the upper limit of normal (ALT level $\geq 400$ IU/L) during chemotherapy or 6 months following chemotherapy, (2) the presence of serum hepatitis B surface antigen at acute exacerbation, and (3) exclusion of liver injury due to superinfection or co-infection with hepatitis A, C, and D viruses, alcoholic liver disease, autoimmune hepatitis, drug hepatitis or major systemic events (e.g., shock, hypoxia, hemolytic anemia). The suspected severe acute exacerbation events were adjudicated by a hepatic injury review panel for the study according to the clinical courses, serological markers, and HBV DNA levels during acute events. Alcohol- or drug-induced liver injury was excluded by careful review of medical history and clinical course, and liver injury within 7 days following initiation of chemotherapy in the first cycle of cancer treatment was excluded for the possibility of chemotherapy agent-related hepatitis. Delayed chemotherapy treatment was defined as premature termination of treatment or delay of $>8$ days [9,21]. Patients with ALT $\geq 100$ IU/L plus international normalized ratio (INR) $\geq 1.5$, ascites, or encephalopathy were categorized as having liver decompensation [17]. Fatal HBV reactivation was defined as (1) fatal consequences due to complications of hepatic failure following severe acute exacerbation of HBV infection, and (2) exclusion of mortality.
caused by other major systemic diseases (e.g., acute myocardial infarct, cerebral vascular accident, and brain metastasis).

Statistical Analysis
The compared data were analyzed using a Chi-square analysis or Fisher’s exact test. A value of $P < 0.05$ was considered significant. All statistical evaluations were performed using SPSS version 18.0 software.

Results
From July 2007 to January 2013, the charts of 3144 cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy were reviewed. A total of 156 HBsAg-positive cancer patients (hematological malignancies: 16; solid tumors: 140) were included (Fig 1). The clinical characteristics of the patients are summarized in Table 1. There were 107 (68.9%) males and 49 (31.1%) females. Most patients with hematological malignancies (81.3%) and non-HCC solid tumor had normal serum level of ALT at the onset of chemotherapy. In contrast, only 20.5% of the patients with HCC had normal ALT level before chemotherapy. None of patients with solid tumor received rituximab-containing chemotherapy. In the hematological malignancy group, 62.5% of the patients received chemotherapy containing rituximab (Table 1).

Table 2 showed the clinical outcomes of the HBsAg-positive cancer patients who received chemotherapy without antiviral prophylaxis. Severe acute exacerbation of HBV infection occurred in 25.0% (4/16) and 4.3% (6/140) of patients with hematological malignancy and solid tumor, respectively. Among the patients with solid tumors, the incidences of severe acute exacerbation of chronic HBV in HCC, colorectal cancer, lung cancer, breast cancer, gynecological cancer, urological tract cancer, head/neck cancer and other solid malignancies were 2.3%, 4.0%, 7.1%, 9.0%, 16.7%, 6.7%, 0% and 0%, respectively. Among the 16 patients with hematological malignancy, 25.0% developed liver decompensation due to severe acute exacerbation of HBV infection, and 18.7% died in fatal HBV reactivation. Additionally, delayed chemotherapy due to HBV flare up occurred in 31.3% of the patients.

![Fig 1. Patient disposition and clinical outcomes. A total of 156 patients were included for HBsAg-positive cancer patients in our institution who underwent chemotherapy and did not receive anti-viral prophylaxis between the periods of July 2007 to January 2013.](doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0132426.g001)
Table 3 showed the univariate analysis of the clinical factors related to severe acute exacerbation of HBV infection in HBsAg-positive cancer patients who received chemotherapy without anti-viral prophylaxis. Type of malignancy and type of chemotherapy were associated with severe acute HBV exacerbation. The incidences of severe acute HBV exacerbation in the patients with hematological malignancy and solid tumors were 25.0% and 4.3%, respectively. The former had higher incidence of severe acute HBV exacerbation than the latter ($P = 0.005$). Regarding the type of chemotherapy, rituximab-containing chemotherapy had a higher incidence of acute exacerbation than the non-rituximab-containing chemotherapy ($P = 0.001$). There were no significant differences with respect to age, sex, levels of ALT, AST, total bilirubin, albumin, INR, and creatinine.

In this study, all the patients receiving rituximab-based chemotherapy had hematological malignancy. Additionally, the number of cases with acute exacerbation was small. Multiple
regression analysis was therefore not performed to investigate the independent risk factors predicting severe acute exacerbation of chronic HBV infection.

Table 4 listed the clinical features of the ten patients who developed severe acute exacerbation of chronic HBV infection. In this study, 10 patients (lymphoma: n = 4; HCC: n = 1; lung cancer: n = 1; breast cancer: n = 1; colorectal cancer: n = 1; cervical cancer: n = 1; urological tract cancer: n = 1) developed severe acute exacerbation of HBV infection. All the severe acute exacerbation occurred after one or two cycles of chemotherapy. The median duration from initiation of chemotherapy to develop severe acute exacerbation of HBV infection was 75 days (range, 30–120 days). Fatal consequences due to severe acute exacerbation of HBV infection occurred in 4 patients.

### Discussion

While HBV reactivation is a recognized complication in HBsAg-positive cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy, the exact frequency of severe acute exacerbation of HBV infection in these patients remains unclear. The current study showed the incidences of severe acute exacerbation of chronic HBV in HBsAg-positive patients with lymphoma, HCC, colorectal cancer, lung cancer, breast cancer, gynecological cancer, urological tract cancer, head/neck cancer and other solid malignancies were 25.0%, 2.3%, 4.0%, 7.1%, 9.0%, 16.7%, 20%, 0% and 0%, respectively. The mortality rate in the patients with severe acute exacerbation of HBV infection was 28.0% though all of them receiving antiviral therapy following HBV flare up. Our data suggest that pre-chemotherapy HBV screening and prophylaxis are indicated for patients with lymphoma and a variety of solid tumors including HCC, urological, gynecological, breast, colorectal, and lung cancers.

HBV reactivation during anticaner therapy has been well studied in lymphoma [10,22,23], and the majority of randomized controlled trials has focused on it [24,25]. High rates of HBV...
reactivation (from 24 to 88%) have been recognized in HBsAg-positive lymphoma patients undergoing rituximab plus steroid combination chemotherapy and hematopoietic stem-cell transplantation [22,26,27]. Increasingly, HBV reactivation is described in patients with solid tumors receiving chemotherapy, particularly in breast cancer patients receiving anthracycline-based regimens [27]. Yeo et al. reported that HBV reactivation rates in lymphoma, breast cancer, gastrointestinal cancer, head and neck cancer and lung cancer were 58%, 41%, 7%, 29% and 23%, respectively [9]. However, the clinical significance of HBV reactivation in HBsAg-positive cancer patients with solid tumors who receive chemotherapy remains unclear, and the exact frequencies of severe acute exacerbation of chronic HBV infection in HBsAg-positive cancer patients with solid tumors undergoing chemotherapy have not been systemically investigated. In this study, we demonstrated that the incidences of severe acute exacerbation of chronic HBV in HBsAg-positive patients with lung cancer, breast cancer, gynecological cancer, and urological tract cancer were above 5% (7.1%, 9.0%, 16.7%, and 6.7%, respectively). The novel data suggest that anti-HBV prophylaxis is not only indicated for lymphoma patients

Table 3. Univariate analysis for the clinical factors related to severe acute exacerbation of HBV infection in HBsAg-positive cancer patients who received chemotherapy without anti-viral prophylaxis.

|                | No. of Patients | Severe acute exacerbation of HBV infection | \( P \) Value |
|----------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------|--------------|
| **Age**       |                 |                                          |              |
| < 60 yr       | 85              | 4(4.7%)                                  | 0.348        |
| ≥ 60 yr       | 71              | 6(8.5%)                                  |              |
| **Sex**       |                 |                                          | 0.431        |
| Men           | 107             | 5(4.7%)                                  |              |
| Woman         | 49              | 5(10.2%)                                 |              |
| **Pre-chemotherapy status** |                |                                          |              |
| ALT (GPT)     |                 |                                          | 0.370        |
| Normal (<40U/L) | 84              | 4(4.8%)                                  |              |
| Elevated      | 72              | 6(8.3%)                                  |              |
| AST (GOT)     |                 |                                          | 0.218        |
| Normal (<40U/L) | 92              | 4(4.3%)                                  |              |
| Elevated      | 64              | 6(9.4%)                                  |              |
| Total bilirubin |                |                                          | 0.999        |
| Normal (<1.6 mg/dL) | 146              | 10(6.8%)                                |              |
| Elevated      | 10              | 0(0%)                                    |              |
| PTINR          |                 |                                          | 0.999        |
| Normal (<1.25) | 148             | 10(6.8%)                                |              |
| Elevated      | 8               | 0(0%)                                    |              |
| Creatinine    |                 |                                          | 0.999        |
| Normal (<1.5 mg/dL) | 148              | 10(6.8%)                                |              |
| Elevated      | 8               | 0(0%)                                    |              |
| Albumin       |                 |                                          | 0.952        |
| Normal(3.7–5.3 mg/dL) | 95              | 6(6.3%)                                  |              |
| Elevated      | 61              | 4(6.6%)                                  |              |
| **Type of tumor** |                |                                          | 0.005        |
| Hematological malignancy | 16              | 4(25.0%)                                |              |
| Solid tumor   | 140             | 6(4.3%)                                  |              |
| **Type of chemotherapy** |            |                                          | 0.001        |
| Rituximab (+) | 10              | 4(40.0%)                                 |              |
| Rituximab (−) | 146             | 6(4.1%)                                  |              |

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0132426.t003
Table 4. Clinical features of the ten patients who developed severe acute exacerbation of chronic HBV infection.

| Patient | Type of cancer | Chemotherapy agents | Gender | Age | HBsAg | HBsAb | ALT (IU/L) | HBV DNA (IU/ml) | Time of HBV reactivation | Delayed of chemotherapy | Antiviral therapy | Mortality |
|---------|----------------|----------------------|--------|-----|-------|-------|-----------|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| 1       | Lymphoma       | RCHOP                | Male   | 67  | positive | negative | 17 | Not done | positive | negative | 3849 | 199800000 | Two cycle later | No done | Telbivudine | + |
| 2       | Lymphoma       | RCHOP                | Female | 79  | positive | negative | 21 | Not done | positive | negative | 2850 | 110980000 | One cycle later | No done | Lamivudine | + |
| 3       | Breast cancer  | FAC                  | Female | 58  | positive | negative | 49 | Not done | positive | negative | 3545 | 5121600 | One cycle later | No done | Lamivudine | + |
| 4       | Lymphoma       | RCHOP                | Female | 54  | positive | negative | 17 | Not done | positive | negative | 3122 | 199800000 | Two cycle later | No done | Entecavir | + |
| 5       | Lung cancer    | Etoposide + Cisplatin | Male   | 63  | positive | negative | 78 | Not done | positive | negative | 1306 | 4597800 | One cycle later | 60D | Lamivudine | - |
| 6       | Urological cancer | MVEC                | Female | 65  | positive | negative | 23 | Not done | positive | negative | 495  | Not done | One cycle later | 60D | Lamivudine | - |
| 7       | HCC            | HAIC                 | Male   | 70  | positive | negative | 21 | Not done | positive | negative | 597  | 2364   | Two cycle later | 30D | Lamivudine | - |
| 8       | Cervical cancer | Holoxan + Cisplatin | Female | 60  | positive | negative | 20 | Not done | positive | negative | 614  | 551200 | One cycle later | 120D | Lamivudine | - |
| 9       | Colorectal cancer | FOLFIRI            | Male   | 50  | positive | negative | 29 | Not done | positive | negative | 494  | >1000000000 | One cycle later | 0D | Tenofovir | - |
| 10      | Lymphoma       | RCHOP                | Male   | 40  | positive | negative | 42 | Not done | positive | negative | 2233 | 352000000 | One cycle later | 0D | Entecavir | - |

R-CHOP, rituximab, cyclophosphamide, vincristine and prednisolone; FAC, 5-fluouracil, doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide; MVEC, methotrexate, vinblastine, epirubicin and cisplatinum; HAIC (hepatic arterial infusion chemotherapy), cisplatin, mitomycin, 5-fluorouracil and leucovorin; FOLFIRI, leucovorin, 5-fluorouracil, irinotecan.
undergoing chemotherapy but also strongly recommended for those HBsAg-positive solid tumor patients with moderate risk (15–20%) of severe acute exacerbation.

Yeo et al. reported that pre-chemotherapy HBV DNA level, the use of steroids and a diagnosis of lymphoma or breast cancer were significant risk factors associated with HBV reactivation in cancer patients undergoing cytotoxic chemotherapy [9]. In this study, the incidence of severe acute HBV exacerbation in the patients with hematological malignancy was higher than that in solid tumors (25.0% vs 4.3%). Lok et al. [28] also reported hematological malignancy had higher incidence of severe acute HBV exacerbation than the solid malignant tumor ($P = 0.005$). Four (25%) out of HBsAg-positive diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) patients who underwent rituximab-containing chemotherapy without anti-viral prophylaxis developed severe acute exacerbation of HBV infection. All the severe acute exacerbation occurred after one or two cycles of chemotherapy.

Rituximab is a chimeric mouse human anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody that can reduce B cell numbers and antibody levels. It is widely used as a single agent or in combination with chemotherapy in the management of CD20+ lymphomas, such as DLBCL and follicular lymphoma, and is a well known immunosuppressant associated with HBV reactivation. HBV reactivation may also occur in patients with resolved hepatitis B (HBsAg-negative/hepatitis B core antibody [anti-HBc]–positive) who receive rituximab. The incidence of HBV reactivation in patients with lymphoma and resolved hepatitis B after rituximab-based therapy ranges from 1.5% to 23.8% [29,30]. Therefore, screening for HBsAg & anti-HBc is strongly recommended for patients receiving with rituximab-containing chemotherapy, and antiviral prophylaxis should be considered in both HBsAg-positive cancer patients and those with resolved hepatitis B undergoing rituximab-containing chemotherapy.

Administering oral anti-HBV agents before chemotherapy is an effective means of reducing HBV reactivation and preventing fatal complications in patients with chronic HBV infection [14,15]. One of our recent studies also demonstrated that none (0%) of the 208 HBsAg-positive patients receiving HBV prophylaxis by oral anti-viral agents in our hospital from November 2009 to June 2013 developed severe acute exacerbation of HBV infection [31]. A meta-analysis by Lenna et al showed that patients given lamivudine prophylaxis reduced 87%, 70%, and 92% of HBV reactivation, reactivation related mortality, and chemotherapy disruptions, respectively [32]. Many clinical guidelines, including the American Association of Study in Liver Diseases (AASLD), European Association for the Study of Liver Disease (EASL) and United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) therefore recommend the use of prophylactic antiviral agents for HBsAg-positive cancer patients undergoing cytotoxic chemotherapy [13,16,33].

Despite its contributions, this retrospective study has several limitations. Firstly, the numbers of HBsAg-positive patients in a variety of solid tumors were small. Secondly, it was a retrospective study. Therefore, some factors might influence physicians’ decisions to perform pre-chemotherapy screening and anti-viral prophylaxis or not. Thirdly, it was a single-institute study in an HBV endemic area. Nonetheless, it provided the incidence of severe acute exacerbation of HBV infection in hematological malignancy and a variety of solid tumors in HBsAg carriers who underwent chemotherapy without adequate HBV prophylaxis.

In conclusion, severe acute exacerbation of chronic HBV infection may occur in HBsAg-positive patients with a variety of solid tumors who received chemotherapy without adequate anti-viral prophylaxis. Hematological malignancy and rituximab-based chemotherapy are the risk factors related to severe acute exacerbation of chronic HBV infection in HBsAg-positive cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy.
Supporting Information

S1 Data. Underlying participant-level data are provided in a supporting information file. (XLS)

Author Contributions

Conceived and designed the experiments: CAS PIH. Performed the experiments: CAS. Analyzed the data: CAS PIH JTH. Contributed reagents/materials/analysis tools: WCC HCC HCY JSC KHL JTH. Wrote the paper: CAS PIH.

References

1. Lee WM. Hepatitis B virus infection. N Engl J Med 1997; 337:1733–45. PMID: 9392700
2. Ganem D, Prince AM. Hepatitis B virus infection—natural history and clinical consequences. N Engl J Med 2004; 350:1118–29. PMID: 15014185
3. Lok AS, Lai CL, Wu PC, Wong VC, Yeoh EK, Lin HJ. Hepatitis B virus infection in Chinese families in Hong Kong. Am J Epidemiol 1987; 126:492–9. PMID: 3618581
4. Yun J, Kim KH, Kang ES, Gwak GY, Choi MS, Lee JE, et al. Prophylactic use of lamivudine for hepatitis B exacerbation in post-operative breast cancer patients receiving anthracycline-based adjuvant chemotherapy. Br J Cancer 2011; 104:559–63. doi: 10.1038/bjc.2011.4 PMID: 21285992
5. Idilman R, Arat M, Soydan E, Törünür M, Soykan I, Akbulut H, et al. Lamivudine prophylaxis for prevention of chemotherapy-induced hepatitis B virus reactivation in hepatitis B virus carriers with malignancies. J Viral Hepat 2004; 11:141–7. PMID: 14996349
6. Yeo W, Chan PK, Ho WM, Zee B, Lam KC, Lei KI, et al. Lamivudine for the prevention of hepatitis B virus reactivation in hepatitis B s-antigen seropositive cancer patients undergoing cytotoxic chemotherapy. J Clin Oncol 2004; 22:927–34. PMID: 14990649
7. Yeo W, Chan PK, Hui P, Ho WM, Lam KC, Kwan WH, et al. Lamivudine for the prevention of hepatitis B virus reactivation in breast cancer patients receiving cytotoxic chemotherapy: a prospective study. J Med Virol 2003; 70:553–61. PMID: 12794717
8. Yeo W, Chan PK, Zhong S, Ho WM, Steinberg JL, Tam JS, et al. Frequency of hepatitis B virus reactivation in cancer patients undergoing cytotoxic chemotherapy: a prospective study of 626 patients with identification of risk factors. J Med Virol 2000; 62:299–307. PMID: 11055239
9. Yeo W, Zee B, Zhong S, Chan PK, Wong WL, Ho WM, et al. Comprehensive analysis of risk factors associating with Hepatitis B virus (HBV) reactivation in cancer patients undergoing cytotoxic chemotherapy. Br J Cancer 2004; 90:1306–11. PMID: 15054446
10. Cheng AL, Hsiung CA, Su IJ, Chen PJ, Chang MC, Tsao CJ, et al. Steroid-free chemotherapy decreases risk of hepatitis B virus (HBV) reactivation in HBV-carriers with lymphoma. Hepatology 2003; 37:1320–8. PMID: 12774010
11. Palmore TN, Shah NL, Loomba R, Borg BB, Lopatin U, Feld JJ, et al. Reactivation of hepatitis B with reappearance of hepatitis B surface antigen after chemotherapy and immunosuppression. Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol 2009; 7:1130–7. doi: 10.1016/j.cgh.2009.06.027 PMID: 19577007
12. Yeo W, Chan HL. Hepatitis B virus reactivation associated with anti-neoplastic therapy. J Gastroenterol Hepatol 2013; 28:31–7. doi: 10.1111/j.1440-1746.2012.07280.x PMID: 23020594
13. Lok AS, McMahon BJ. Chronic hepatitis B: Update 2009. Hepatology 2009; 50:661–2. doi: 10.1002/hep.23190 PMID: 19714720
14. Loomba R, Rowley A, Wesley R, Liang TJ, Hoofnagle JH, Pucino F, et al. Systematic review: the effect of preventive lamivudine on hepatitis B reactivation during chemotherapy. Ann Intern Med 2008; 148:519–28. PMID: 18378948
15. Huang YH, Hsiao LT, Hong YC, Chiou TJ, Yu YB, Gau JP, et al. Randomized controlled trial of entecavir prophylaxis for rituximab-associated hepatitis B virus reactivation in patients with lymphoma and resolved hepatitis B. J Clin Oncol 2013; 31:2766–72. doi: 10.1200/JCO.2012.48.5938 PMID: 23775967
16. European Association for the Study of the Liver: EASL clinical practice guidelines: management of chronic hepatitis B. J Hepatol 2009; 50:227–42. doi: 10.1016/j.jhep.2008.10.001 PMID: 19054588
17. Hwang JP, Fisch MJ, Zhang H, Kallen MA, Routbort MJ, Lal LS, et al. Low rates of hepatitis B virus screening at the onset of chemotherapy. J Oncol Pract 2012; 8:32–9.
18. Lee R, Vu K, Bell CM, Hicks LK. Screening for hepatitis B surface antigen before chemotherapy: current practice and opportunities for improvement. Curr Oncol 2010; 17:32–8. PMID: 21151407

19. Wang Y, Luo XM, Yang D, Zhang J, Zhuo HY, Zhang J, et al. Testing for hepatitis B infection in prospective chemotherapy patients: a retrospective study. World J Gastroenterol 2013; 19:923–30. doi: 10.3748/wjg.v19.i6.923 PMID: 23429298

20. Khokhar OS, Farhadi A, McGrail L. Oncologists and hepatitis B: a survey to determine current level of awareness and practice of antiviral prophylaxis to prevent reactivation. Chemotherapy 2009; 55:69–75. doi: 10.1159/000183731 PMID: 19077421

21. Wang Y, Luo XM, Yang D, Zhang J, Zhuo HY, Zhang J, et al. Testing for hepatitis B infection in prospective chemotherapy patients: a retrospective study. World J Gastroenterol 2013; 19:923–30. doi: 10.3748/wjg.v19.i6.923 PMID: 23429298

22. Khokhar OS, Farhadi A, McGrail L. Oncologists and hepatitis B: a survey to determine current level of awareness and practice of antiviral prophylaxis to prevent reactivation. Chemotherapy 2009; 55:69–75. doi: 10.1159/000183731 PMID: 19077421

23. Coiffier B, Lepage E, Briere J, Herbrecht R, Tilly H, Bouabdallah R, et al. CHOP chemotherapy plus rituximab compared with CHOP alone in elderly patients with diffuse large-B-cell lymphoma. N Engl J Med 2002; 346:235–42. PMID: 11807147

24. Lau GK, Yiu HH, Fong DY, Cheng HC, Au WY, Lai LS, et al. Early is superior to deferred preemptive lamivudine therapy for hepatitis B patients undergoing chemotherapy. Gastroenterology 2003; 125:1742–9. PMID: 14724827

25. Hsu C, Hsiung CA, Su IJ, Hwang WS, Wang MC, Lin SF, et al. A revisit of prophylactic lamivudine for chemotherapy-associated hepatitis B reactivation in non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma. A randomized trial. Hepatology 2008; 47:844–53. doi: 10.1002/hep.22106 PMID: 18302293

26. Lau GK, Liang R, Chiu EK, Lee CK, Lam SK. Hepatic events after bone marrow transplantation in patients with hepatitis B infection: a case controlled study. Bone Marrow Transplant 1997; 19:795–9. PMID: 9134717

27. Dai MS, Wu PF, Shyu RY, Lu JJ, Chao TY. Hepatitis B virus reactivation in breast cancer patients undergoing cytotoxic chemotherapy and the role of preemptive lamivudine administration. Liver Int 2004; 24:540–6. PMID: 15566502

28. Lok AS, McMahon BJ. Chronic hepatitis B. Hepatology 2007; 45:507–39. PMID: 17256718

29. Koo YX, Tan DS, Tan IB, Tao M, Chow WC, Lim ST. Hepatitis B virus reactivation and role of antiviral prophylaxis in lymphoma patients with past hepatitis B virus infection who are receiving chemotherapy. Cancer 2010; 116:115–21. doi: 10.1002/cncr.24742 PMID: 19899164

30. Pei SN, Chen CH, Lee CM, Wang MC, Ma MC, Hu TH, et al. Reactivation of hepatitis B virus following rituximab-based regimens: a serious complication in both HBsAg-positive and HBsAg-negative patients. Ann Hematol 2010; 89:255–62. doi: 10.1007/s00277-009-0806-7 PMID: 19697028

31. Hsu PI, Lai KH, Cheng JS, Kao SS, Li YR, Sun WC, et al. Prevention of acute exacerbation of chronic hepatitis B infection in cancer patients receiving chemotherapy in a hepatitis B virus endemic area. Hepatology 2015 Apr. doi: 10.1002/hep.27843

32. Martynak LA, Taqavi E, Saab S. Lamivudine prophylaxis is effective in reducing hepatitis B reactivation and reactivation-related mortality in chemotherapy patients: a meta-analysis. Liver Int 2008; 28:28–38. PMID: 17976155

33. Weinbaum CM, Williams I, Mast EE, Wang SA, Finelli L, Wasley A, et al. Recommendations for identification and public health management of persons with chronic hepatitis B virus infection. MMWR Recomm Rep 2008; 57:1–20.