Interactions between HIV-Related Medications and Methadone:

An Overview

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TABLE

Medication	Formally Studied?	Effect on Methadone	Effect on HIV-Related Medication	Reference
		NRTI		
Zidovudine (AZT)	Yes	None	↑ AZT AUC by 40%	(1, 2)
Didanosine (ddI)	Yes	None	↓ ddI AUC by 60%	(3)
Zalcitabine (ddC)	No	Not studied or reported	Not studied or reported	
Stavudine (d4T)	Yes	None	↓ d4T AUC by 18%	(3)
Lamivudine (3TC)	Yes	None	Not studied	(4)
Abacavir (ABC)	Yes	↑ Methadone clearance	↑ Time to peak concentration ↓ Peak concentration	(5)
		NNRTI		
Nevirapine	Yes	Withdrawal symptoms ↓ Methadone levels by 46% Need for ↑ methadone dose observed	Not studied or reported	(6–8)
Delavirdine	No	↑ Methadone levels predicted	Not studied or reported	
Efavirenz	Yes	↓ Methadone levels by 48% Heroin use relapse Need for ↑ methadone dose observed	Not studied or reported	(8, 9)
		PI		
Indinavir	No	Not reported	Not reported	
Ritonavir	Yes	↓ Methadone levels reported† ↓ Meperidine levels	No effect reported †	(10) (11)
Nelfinavir	Yes	↓ Methadone levels, but no withdrawal symptoms observed	No	(12)
Saquinavir	Planned	Not studied or reported	Not studied or reported	
Amprenavir*	Yes	↓ Methadone levels, but no withdrawal symptoms observed	Not studied or reported	(13)
Lopinavir*	PDR data only	↓ Methadone levels reported†	Not studied or reported	(14)
		Other medications used in the treatment of HIV-infected persons		
Rifampin	Yes	↓ Methadone levels, often sharply	None reported	(15)
Rifabutin	Yes	No change in methadone levels Mild narcotic withdrawal symptoms	None reported	(16)
Fluconazole	Yes	↑ Methadone levels by approximately 30%, clinical significance unknown	None reported	(17)
Phenytoin	Yes	↓ Methadone levels, often sharply	None reported	(18)
Phenobarbital	Yes	↓ Methadone levels, often sharply	None reported	(19)
Carbamezipine	Yes	↓ Methadone levels	None reported	(20)
Fluvoxamine*	No (case series only)	↓ Methadone levels by 20–100%	None reported	(21, 22)
Fluoxetine*	No (case series only)	Minimal ↑ methadone levels	None reported	
Sertraline*	Yes	Transient mild ↑ methadone levels	None reported	(23)

NRTI = nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors
NNRTI = non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors
PI = protease inhibitor
AUC = area under curve
† Study design limits clinical utility of results.
* New

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