036

IMMUNOLOGIC RESPONSE TO HEPATITIS B VACCINATION IN HIV-INFECTED PATIENTS (A1),

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The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the National Institute of Health (NIH) recommend that HIV-infected patients receive hepatitis B vaccination, but the appropriate time for vaccination, dose, and schedule are not clearly defined. This study included two HIV clinics in New Mexico. The differences in vaccination response were examined to determine if low CD4 cell count had an effect on vaccination response in HIV-infected patients. Data from patients' electronic medical records was obtained both retrospectively and prospectively, which included established risk factors for failed immunologic response (e.g. gender, smoking status, BMI), CD4 cell count, viral load, serology, titers, concomitant HAART, and comorbid conditions. Response to the vaccine was defined as antibody (HbsAb) titer concentrations $\geq$10mIU/mL. The absolute CD4 cell count was analyzed as a continuous variable to determine the effect on immunologic response. The results will be discussed.