



ashm
Australasian Society for HIV Medicine

Proceedings Report

Australian Antiretroviral Guidelines Consensus Discussion

18 & 19 September 2008
Perth, Western Australia

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Background to the Antiretroviral Guidelines Consensus Discussion

The annual Antiretroviral Guidelines Consensus Discussion is designed as a forum to examine issues of importance arising from the USA Department of Health and Human Services Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents HIV-1 Infected Adults and Adolescents. These guidelines have been endorsed by Australia and form the basis on which the Australian commentary is developed. The Australian commentary to the latest Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-1 Infected Adults and Adolescents is available at www.ashm.org.au/aust-guidelines. The Antiretroviral Guidelines panel has been given the responsibility of writing and updating a commentary to these guidelines to ensure that they are appropriate for and applicable to Australasian conditions, and that they are kept up to date. This activity is managed by the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine (ASHM). The Panel uses information, discussion and debate from the annual Antiretroviral Guidelines Consensus Discussion to inform this commentary. The guidelines (including Australasian commentary) and a list of current Panel members are available on the ASHM website at <http://www.ashm.org.au/aust-guidelines>.

Overview of 2008 Program and Presentations

The annual Antiretroviral Guidelines Consensus Discussion was this year incorporated into the clinical stream of the main ASHM 08 Conference program. Previously, an Annual Consensus Conference has been held on the Saturday afternoon immediately following the close of the ASHM Conference. Feedback from previous years suggested that attendance and participation would be maximised if the Australian Antiretroviral Guideline sessions were moved into the ASHM program.

The 2008 Antiretroviral Guidelines Consensus Discussion was open to all registered ASHM Conference delegates including representatives of the pharmaceutical industry.

The Antiretroviral Guidelines Consensus Discussion program consisted of four presentations and two case studies which were delivered by a total of six speakers and included evidence-based presentations from international and local experts on the latest research and developments in HIV treatment.

The webcast/video podcast of the presentations from the 20th Annual ASHM Conference, including the Antiretroviral Guidelines Consensus Discussion, is available on the ASHM website. All ASHM members and conference delegates have received a password to access the presentations.

Antiretroviral Guidelines Consensus Discussion Program

Session 1: Thursday 18 September 2008 1.30pm – 3.00pm

Newer agents for treatment-experienced patients
Roy Gulick

Managing suspected early virologic failure
Tim Read

Juggling antiretroviral therapy and cardiovascular risk
Catriona Ooi

Session 2: Friday 19 September 1.30pm – 3.00pm

Initiation of combination antiretroviral therapy in adults with HIV-1 infection, what CD4 threshold to use overview of clinical data 2008
Sarah Pett

Emerging issues about potency and toxicity of the preferred agents for initial therapy
Roy Gulick

Testing for latent TB in HIV
Jeffrey Post and Alan Street

Session 1: Thursday 18 September, 1.30pm – 3.00pm

The opening session, 'New antiretroviral agents, how to use them and what's in the pipeline?' was chaired by Alan Street and Bill Whittaker. The presentation was delivered by Roy Gulick, an invited international speaker and member of the US Department of Health and Human Services (DHSS) Panel on Antiretroviral Guidelines for Adults and Adolescents.

The session was followed by the presentation of two case studies. Tim Read, sexual health physician at Melbourne Sexual Health Centre and Victorian Infectious Diseases Service (Royal Melbourne Hospital), delivered a case presentation on 'Managing suspected early virologic failure' in an HIV positive patient. The second case study was presented by Catriona Ooi, Director of Sexual Health, Hunter New England Area Health, and raised the issue of 'Juggling antiretroviral therapy and cardiovascular risk'.

An expert panel led the case based discussion and consisted of Roy Gulick, Sarah Pett, Alan Street and Bill Whittaker. Unfortunately due to time constraints questions were not taken from the floor.

Session 2: Friday 19 September, 1.30pm – 3.00pm

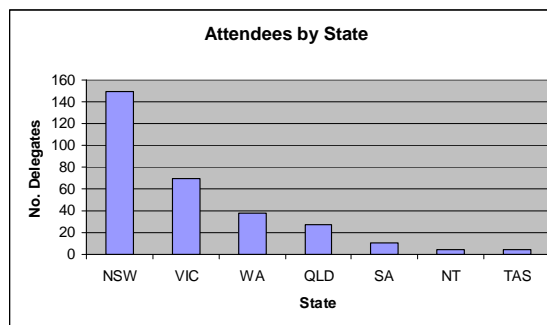
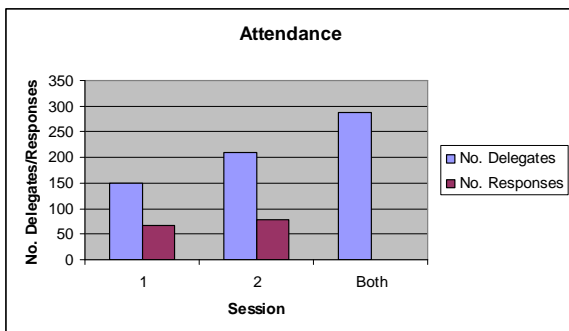
The second session on the following day was chaired by Fraser Drummond and Jenny Hoy, and consisted of three presentations. The first presentation 'Initiation of combination antiretroviral therapy in adults with HIV-1 infection, what CD4 threshold to use' by Sarah Pett from the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, provided an overview of clinical trial data. The second presentation focused on 'Emerging issues about potency and toxicity of the preferred agents for initial therapy' and was delivered by Roy Gulick, Director of Cornell HIV Clinical Trials Unit. The final presentation given by Jeffrey Post and Alan Street addressed 'Testing for latent TB in HIV'.

These presentations were followed by questions taken from the floor .

Evaluation & Feedback - Key findings and comments

Attendance

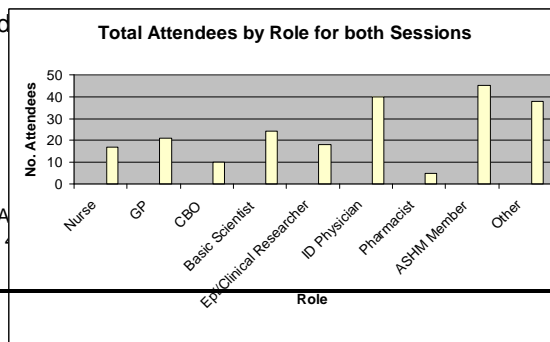
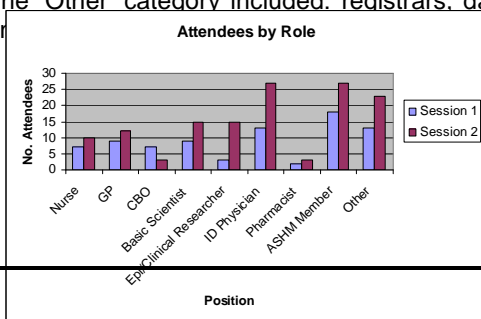
The 2008 Consensus Conference was very well attended. The attendance is presented in the table below. The table also shows the number of Evaluation and Feedback forms (responses) per session.



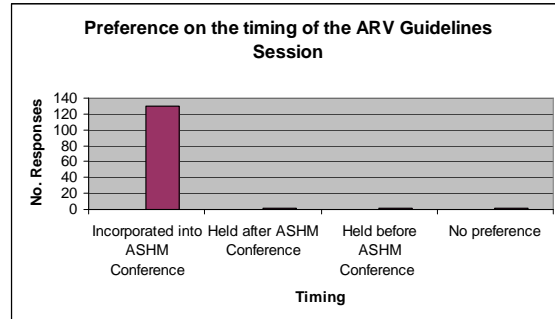
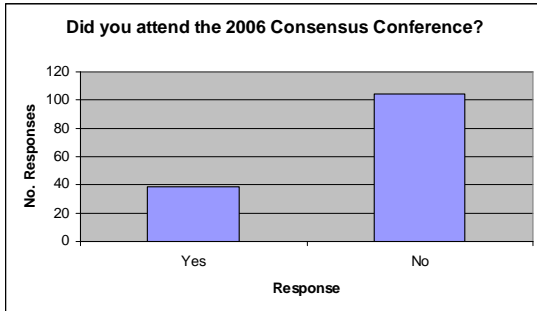
There were 149 delegates at Session 1 and 210 delegates in Session 2. A total of 287 delegates attended either one or both sessions. The majority of delegates were from NSW followed by VIC and WA.

Professionally, the Conference was broadly represented, including general practitioners, infectious disease physicians, nurses, pharmacists, clinical and social researchers, and students. Community and hospital based professionals were present.

The 'Other' category included: registrars, data and coordinators



Background



Sessions in the Consensus Discussion

Responses and comments for each session are provided below. The feedback for all sessions was generally positive with the main comments being not enough time for questions and discussions.

Session 1

Presentation 1: How to use the new agents in the treatment-experienced patient and what drugs are in the pipeline

Presented by: Roy Gulick

What was your experience of the session: "How to use the new agents in the treatment-experienced patient and what drugs are in the pipeline"?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
1 (useful and informative)	52%	34
2	31%	21
3	13%	9
4	0%	0
5 (unhelpful)	4%	3

Additional Comments

- A good of topic and available/upcoming drugs
- Should simplify outlines
- Coherent and well structured presentation
- Excellent
- Too complex

Case study 1: Managing suspected early virologic failure

Presented by: Tim Read

What was your experience of the session: "Managing suspected early virologic failure"?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
1 (useful and informative)	27%	18
2	46%	31
3	19%	13
4	7%	5
5 (unhelpful)	1%	1

Additional Comments

- Not enough time for questions from the audience
- Excellent discussion. Case presentation with panel great idea and well managed
- Provided new information

Case study 2: Juggling antiretroviral therapy and cardiovascular risk
Presented by: Catriona Ooi

What was your experience of the session: "Juggling antiretroviral therapy and cardiovascular risk"?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
1 (useful and informative)	38%	23
2	35%	21
3	18%	11
4	7%	4
5 (unhelpful)	2%	1

Additional Comments

- Fragmented case of patient, misinterpretation of single value results. PBS prescribing guidelines not followed.
- Too long
- Presenter was very good
- Well presented and a holistic approach to care
- My country program is new so it will help me prepare for the future
- Very interesting case due to multiple risk factors
- As a beginner this information is very helpful towards my work when I start rolling out the medicines
- Excellent discussion of factors in case vs risks of HAART. All factors included in discussion.

What was your experience of the expert panel and discussion format?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
1 (useful and informative)	32%	21
2	48%	31
3	10%	5
4	10%	6
5 (unhelpful)	0%	0

Additional Comments

- It works and should be maintained
- The panel discussion was very good
- More concrete suggestions and resources from the panel
- The audience should have been given more opportunity to get involved
- Good but more time is always needed
- More discussion required
- OK, but shows a need for more holistic patient case study

Session 2

Presentation 1: Initiation of combination antiretroviral therapy in adults with HIV-1 infection, what CD4 threshold to use - overview of clinical data 2008

Presented by: Sarah Pett

What was your experience of the session: "Initiation of combination antiretroviral therapy in adults with HIV-1 infection, what CD4 threshold to use - overview of clinical data 2008"?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
1 (useful and informative)	46%	35
2	42%	33
3	4%	3
4	7%	5
5 (unhelpful)	1%	1

Additional Comments

- Good outline of the overall situation
- Need more time for discussion
- There really wasn't any debate
- The session was extremely informative and very well presented by Dr Pett

Presentation 2: Emerging issues about potency and toxicity of the preferred agents for initial therapy

Presented by: Roy Gulick

What was your experience of the session: "Emerging issues about potency and toxicity of the preferred agents for initial therapy"?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
1 (useful and informative)	55%	41
2	28%	21
3	10%	7
4	6%	4
5 (unhelpful)	1%	1

Additional Comments

- Excellent concise overview
- Good clear explanation
- Good coverage of current knowledge. Helpful for those not intrinsically medically/scientifically engaged

Presentation 3: Testing for latent TB in HIV patients - the old or the new?

What was your experience of the session: "Testing for latent TB in HIV patients - the old or the new?"		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
1 (useful and informative)	29%	16
2	38%	21
3	25%	14
4	7%	4
5 (unhelpful)	1%	1

Additional Comments

- Too rushed
- Good to hear the pros and cons but still no consensus! What to do in practice?
- Gave a lot of introduction data at the expense of "discussion" data

What was your experience of the question and discussion format for these three sessions?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
1 (useful and constructive)	21%	11
2	38%	20
3	21%	11
4	15%	8
5 (unhelpful)	5%	3

Overall comments/suggestions on the ASHM 08 Australian Antiretroviral Guidelines sessions.

- The second session would be much better to be presented first, before case presentations in Thursday's session
- Larger panel and panel debate
- Very relevant, much better than Thursday session
- Raises as many questions as gives answers, would like to see if at all possible, more Australian research e.g. TB/HIV in Australian population (refugee health?)
- Excellent
- Useful and informative
- Very helpful information for our settings in the developing countries.
- Needs more emphasis on guidelines within context of cases
- Needs more time so audience can be involved
- Very disappointing, Consensus Conference in Melbourne was my favourite part of conference. The Australian experts did not add much insight and the audience was excluded
- Hard to understand - too medical, needs to be more community friendly
- Great idea. Need to be more careful with case studies - need to be seen to follow guidelines
- Very poor. No actual discussion about the current guidelines. Not sure what the session was meant to achieve.
- More questions from the panel

Use of the Australasian Commentary and Other Guidelines

Have you used the Australasian commentary to the USA Department of Health and Human Services Guidelines on the Use of Antiretroviral Agents for the Management of HIV 1 Infected Adults and Adolescents available on the ASHM website?

Never/less than twice	65%
More than twice	35%

Comments

- To check therapy adherence to guidelines
- To confirm recommendations/information
- They are more appropriate for the local setting
- Use it frequently as a teaching aid for medical (junior) and allied health staff and also to provide advice to prescribers
- Referring to specific population recommendations
- I don't always have access to site, I always consult with ID physician for latest info and recommendations.
- Useful for more unusual situations
- Commentary on TB, drug interaction charts
- Low caseload - used to refresh facts
- Not a prescriber but for increasing knowledge

Do you believe that another national guideline should be used as the basis for the Australasian Commentary?

Yes	45
No	68

If yes, please indicate which other guideline (choose from list below) and outline your reason.

British HIV Association Guidelines	26%
European Guidelines	14%
International AIDS Society USA	60%

Comments

- Ideally combination of best aspects of all 3
- DHHS preferable, more comprehensive, detailed
- Australia should develop their own
- Any as they may be ahead of Australia, we can get ideas but should test on our population first.
- Exhaustive literature reviews in US guidelines are informative plus clinical practice most similar to Australian setting.
- All are useful but gives different perspective
- British - more closely related to Australia?
- Would need to see which is most relevant to Australian population
- Always useful to have a comparative set of guidelines

Have you used any other Antiretroviral Guidelines?

Yes	36%
No	64%

If so, which ones and why.

- John Hopkins - more detailed info Stanford guide - more detailed info
- Toronto HIV clinic website - info for drug interaction
- Liverpool website
- BVAG, EU for reassurance
- DHHS
- BHIVA
- US Guidelines
- OSSHHM recommendations
- European - clarity and user friendliness
- US PEP guidelines has useful lit review
- WHO ARV guidelines because these are the only guidelines we have in our country - PNG

Having attended this session, will you use the Australasian Commentary?

Yes	65%
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Maybe	31%
No	4%

Having attended this session, will you attend next year?

Yes	62%
Maybe	33%
No	5%

Summary of Key Findings and Comments

The majority of feedback was very positive. Attendance was high and many delegates found the presentations of a high quality. Delegates frequently commented there was insufficient time for questions and audience participation should be more greatly encouraged. It was also noted that the case presentations should be made within the context of the guidelines. Over 60% of delegates are keen to attend the Consensus Conference in 2009.