

Lamivudine

Zeffix[®]

100mg Tablet

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Each film-coated, capsule-shaped tablet contains 100mg Lamivudine.

PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

Pharmacodynamics

Pharmacotherapeutic group - nucleoside analogue; ATC Code: JO5A F05.

Lamivudine (Zeffix[®]) is an antiviral agent which is highly active against hepatitis B virus in all cell lines tested and in experimentally infected animals.

Lamivudine is metabolised by both infected and uninfected cells to the triphosphate (TP) derivative which is the active form of the parent compound. The intracellular half life of the triphosphate in hepatocytes is 17 to 19 hours *in vitro*. Lamivudine-TP acts a substrate for the HBV viral polymerase. The formation of further viral DNA is blocked by incorporation of lamivudine-TP into the chain and subsequent chain termination

Lamivudine-TP does not interfere with normal cellular deoxynucleotide metabolism. It is also only a weak inhibitor of mammalian DNA polymerases alpha and beta. Furthermore, lamivudine-TP has little effect on mammalian cell DNA content.

In assays relating to potential drug effects on mitochondrial structure and DNA content and function, lamivudine lacked appreciable toxic effects. It has a very low potential to decrease mitochondrial DNA content, is not permanently incorporated into mitochondrial DNA, and does not act as an inhibitor of mitochondrial DNA polymerase γ .

Pharmacokinetics

Absorption

Lamivudine is well absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract, and the bioavailability of oral lamivudine in adults is normally between 80 and 85%. Following oral administration, the mean time (t_{max}) to maximal serum concentrations (C_{max}) is about an hour. At therapeutic dose levels i.e. 100 mg once daily, C_{max} is in the order of 1.1 to 1.5 micrograms/mL and trough levels were 0.015 to 0.020 micrograms/mL.

Co-administration of Lamivudine (Zeffix[®]) with food resulted in a delay of t_{max} and a lower C_{max} (decreased by up to 47%). However, the extent (based on the AUC) of lamivudine absorbed was not influenced, therefore Lamivudine (Zeffix[®]) can be administered with or without food.

Distribution

From i.v. studies the mean volume of distribution is 1.3 L/kg. Lamivudine exhibits linear pharmacokinetics over the therapeutic dose range and displays low plasma protein binding to albumin.

Limited data shows lamivudine penetrates the central nervous system and reaches the cerebro-spinal fluid (CSF). The mean lamivudine CSF/serum concentration ratio 2 to 4 hours after oral administration was approximately 0.12.

Metabolism

Lamivudine is predominately cleared by renal excretion of unchanged drug. The likelihood of metabolic drug interactions with lamivudine is low due to the small (5 to 10%) extent of hepatic metabolism and the low plasma protein binding.

Elimination

The mean systemic clearance of lamivudine is approximately 0.3 L/h/kg. The observed half-life of elimination is 5 to 7 hours. The majority of lamivudine is excreted unchanged in the urine via glomerular filtration and active secretion (organic cationic transport system).

Renal clearance accounts for about 70% of lamivudine elimination.

Special Patient Populations

• Children

In paediatric patients lamivudine pharmacokinetics are generally similar to adults. However, weight-corrected oral clearances were higher in children resulting in lower AUCs than adults. Age-stratified oral clearance was highest at age 2 and declined from 2 to 12 years, where values were then similar to those seen in adults. A dose of 3 mg/kg given once daily produced a steady-state lamivudine AUC similar to that associated with a dose of 100 mg/day in adults. The recommended dose for children from 2 to eleven years of age is 3 mg/kg once daily up to a maximum of 100 mg daily which will provide comparable exposure to the adult recommended dose (100 mg once a day). There are limited pharmacokinetic data for patients less than 2 years of age.

• Elderly

In elderly patients the pharmacokinetic profile of lamivudine suggests that normal ageing with accompanying renal decline has no clinically significant effect on lamivudine exposure, except in patients with creatinine clearance of less than 50 mL/min. (see *Dosage and Administration*).

• Renal impairment

Studies in patients with renal impairment show lamivudine elimination is affected by renal dysfunction. Dose reduction in patients with a creatinine clearance of less than 50 mL/min is necessary (see *Dosage and Administration*).

• Hepatic impairment

A study in hepatically impaired patients (non-HIV and non-HBV infected) showed Lamivudine (Zeffix[®]) is well tolerated in this patient group with no changes in laboratory parameters or the adverse event profile of Lamivudine (Zeffix[®]). The pharmacokinetics of lamivudine are unaffected by hepatic impairment.

Limited data in patients undergoing liver transplantation show that impairment of hepatic function does not impact significantly on the pharmacokinetics of lamivudine unless accompanied by renal dysfunction.

- **Pregnancy**

Following oral administration, lamivudine pharmacokinetics in late pregnancy were similar to non-pregnant adults.

Clinical Studies

Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) has potent anti-viral activity *in vivo*, rapidly suppressing HBV replication following initiation of treatment resulting in continued HBV suppression, normalisation of serum aminotransferase, significant reductions in liver necro-inflammatory activity, reduced progression of fibrosis and increased HBeAg seroconversion. Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) has been administered to chronic hepatitis B patients for up to four years in clinical studies. Similar results have been seen in patients regardless of ethnic origin.

In controlled studies in over 800 HBeAg positive patients, treatment with Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) for one year significantly suppressed HBV DNA replication (34 to 57% of patients), normalised ALT levels (40 to 72% of patients), induced HBeAg seroconversion (HBeAg and HBV DNA loss with HBeAb detection, 16 to 18% of patients), improved histology (38 to 52% of patients), and reduced progression of fibrosis (3 to 17% of patients) and progression to cirrhosis (1.8% of patients).

The HBeAg seroconversion was maintained in 81% (34/42) of patients off drug followed for approximately two years. In addition, HBsAg seroconversion was achieved in 21% (9/42) patients.

In HBeAg positive patients who had not experienced HBeAg seroconversion in one-year controlled studies and were subsequently treated with 2 years of Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]), 77/128 (60%) had improvement in liver inflammation and 26/51 (51%) had improvement in bridging fibrosis.

In an additional study, after four years of Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) therapy HBeAg seroconversion (HBeAg loss and HBeAb detection) was seen in 47% (27/58) patients (59% [24/41] of patients with abnormal baseline ALT).

In patients who have not HBeAg seroconverted during treatment, discontinuation of Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) results in a return of HBV replication with both HBV DNA and serum aminotransferases returning towards pre-treatment levels within 2 to 6 months.

In patients followed for up to 16 weeks after discontinuation of treatment, post-treatment ALT elevations were observed more frequently in patients who had received Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) than in patients who had received placebo. A comparison of ALT elevations between weeks 52 and 68 in patients who discontinued Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) at week 52 and patients in the same studies who received placebo throughout the treatment course is shown in Table 4.

Abnormal Value	Patients with ALT Elevation/ Patients with Observations#	
	Lamivudine (<i>Zeffix</i> [®])	Placebo
ALT ≥2 x baseline value	37/137 (27%)	22/116 (19%)
ALT ≥3 x baseline value†	29/137 (21%)	9/116 (8%)
ALT ≥2 x baseline value and absolute ALT >500 IU/L	21/137 (15%)	8/116 (7%)
ALT ≥2 x baseline value; and bilirubin >2 x ULN and ≥2 x baseline value	1/137 (0.7%)	1/116 (0.9%)

#Each patient may be represented in one or more category.

†Comparable to a Grade 3 toxicity in accordance with modified WHO criteria.

ULN = Upper limit of normal.

In a placebo controlled study of 286 hepatitis B patients aged 2 to 17 years, patients treated with Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) for one year had a significantly better complete virological response (loss of HBeAg and HBV DNA) compared with patients receiving placebo (23% [44/191] vs 13% [12/95]). Normalisation of serum ALT was more frequent in patients treated with Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) compared with placebo (55% [100/183] vs 13% [11/88]). In a stratified follow-on study for six months, complete virological response was maintained in 83% [33/40] of patients who had responded after one year of treatment with Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) and then stopped therapy. Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) treated patients who did not respond after one year continued treatment for a further 6 months resulting in an additional 10% (12/123) of patients achieving virological response and a cumulative complete virological response of 28% (45/163) over 18 months.

HBV viral sub-populations with reduced susceptibility to Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) *in vitro* have been identified. These HBV variants (YMDD variant HBV) are also found in hepatitis B patients who experience a return of detectable serum HBV DNA levels whilst on Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) treatment. The incidence of YMDD variant HBV (see *Warnings and Precautions*), as detected by polymerase chain reaction, increases with duration of treatment; 20% after one year, 53% after three years, 70% after four years and may be higher in immunocompromised patients.

Despite the emergence of YMDD variant HBV, patients treated for one year had significantly lower serum HBV DNA and ALT levels and improved liver histology compared to patients on placebo. After 2 years of Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) treatment, the majority of patients with YMDD variant HBV maintained serum HBV DNA and ALT levels lower than their pre-treatment values and a proportion experienced HBeAg seroconversion. The adverse event profile is similar for patients with or without YMDD variant HBV.

Following the development of YMDD variant HBV, the withdrawal of Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) results in a re-emergence of wild-type HBV which is sensitive to Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) (see *Warnings and Precautions*). Therefore, despite the development of YMDD variant HBV, continuation of Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) therapy will suppress residual wild-type virus and may provide continued benefit in these patients. YMDD variant HBV appears to be less replication competent *in-vitro* and *in-vivo* and therefore may be less virulent than wild-type HBV.

In patients with HBeAg negative chronic hepatitis B, the efficacy of Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) was similar to those infected with wild type HBV (e.g. 71% of patients with HBV DNA suppression, 67% with ALT normalisation and 38% with Knodell HAI-score improvement at one year on treatment). If therapy with Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) is stopped after one year of treatment, the majority of patients with HBeAg negative chronic hepatitis B have a return of viral replication. Limited data indicate that extended Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) treatment (two years) maintains HBV DNA suppression and ALT normalisation in this patient population. The incidence of serious adverse events at anytime during and post-treatment was low and similar in patients with HBeAg negative chronic hepatitis B with or without YMDD variant HBV.

In non-controlled studies in liver transplant patients in which Lamivudine (Zeffix®) was administered prior to and during transplantation, effective HBV DNA suppression and ALT normalisation was demonstrated. When Lamivudine (Zeffix®) therapy was continued post-transplantation there was reduced graft re-infection by HBV, increased HBsAg loss, and a one year survival rate of 76 to 100%. These studies were not placebo-controlled as this was regarded inappropriate in patients with decompensated liver disease.

As anticipated due to the concomitant immunosuppression, the rate of emergence of YMDD variant HBV after 52 weeks treatment was higher (36% to 64%) in liver transplant patients compared with immunocompetent chronic hepatitis B patients (14% to 32%). Studies provide evidence however that the emergence of YMDD variant is not consistently associated with hepatic disease progression and that the majority of patients may continue to benefit from continued Lamivudine (Zeffix®) therapy.

Studies of monotherapy with Lamivudine (Zeffix®) compared to alpha-interferon alone or in combination for treatment of chronic hepatitis B patients showed no significant difference in histologic response or HBeAg seroconversion rates between the treatment groups. The safety profile of Lamivudine (Zeffix®) was superior to the alpha-interferon containing treatment regimens.

There is no clinical data on the efficacy of Lamivudine (Zeffix®) in patients co-infected with Delta hepatitis.

Pre-clinical Safety Data

Administration of Lamivudine (Zeffix®) in animal toxicity studies at high doses was not associated with any major organ toxicity. At the highest dosage levels, minor effects on indicators of liver and kidney function were seen together with occasional reduction in liver weights. Reduction of erythrocytes and neutrophil counts were identified as the effects most likely to be of clinical relevance. These events were seen infrequently in clinical studies.

Lamivudine was not mutagenic in bacterial tests but, like many nucleoside analogues showed activity in an *in vitro* cytogenetic assay and the mouse lymphoma assay. Lamivudine was not genotoxic *in vivo* at doses that gave plasma concentrations around 60 to 70 times higher than the anticipated clinical plasma levels. As the *in vitro* mutagenic activity of Lamivudine (Zeffix®) could not be confirmed by *in vivo* tests, it is concluded that Lamivudine (Zeffix®) should not represent a genotoxic hazard to patients undergoing treatment.

The results of long term carcinogenicity studies with Lamivudine (Zeffix®) in rats and mice did not show any carcinogenic potential.

INDICATIONS

Lamivudine (Zeffix®) is indicated for the treatment of patients with chronic hepatitis B and evidence of hepatitis B virus (HBV) replication.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Lamivudine (Zeffix®) can be taken with or without food.

Patient compliance should be monitored while on Lamivudine (Zeffix®) therapy.

Discontinuation of Lamivudine (Zeffix®) may be considered in immunocompetent patients when HBeAg and/or HBsAg seroconversion occurs. Discontinuation may also be considered when loss of efficacy occurs, as indicated by recurrent signs of hepatitis.

If Lamivudine (Zeffix®) is discontinued, patients should be periodically monitored for evidence of recurrent hepatitis (see *Warnings and Precautions*).

Discontinuation of treatment is not recommended in patients with decompensated liver disease. There are limited data regarding the maintenance of seroconversion long term after stopping treatment with Lamivudine (Zeffix®).

Lamivudine (Zeffix®) should be used in accordance with available official recommendations.

Tablets:

Lamivudine (Zeffix®) oral solution is available for use in children and those patients for whom the tablets are inappropriate.

Oral solution/Tablets:

Populations

- **Adults and adolescents 12 years and older**

The recommended dosage of Lamivudine (Zeffix®) is 100 mg once daily.

- **Children from two to eleven years**

The recommended dose is 3 mg/kg once daily up to a maximum of 100 mg daily.

- **Children less than two years**

There are insufficient data available to propose specific dosage recommendations in this age group.

- **Renal impairment**

Lamivudine serum concentrations (AUC) are increased in patients with moderate to severe renal impairment due to decreased renal clearance. The dosage should therefore be reduced for patients with a creatinine clearance of less than 50 mL/min (see *Table 1 below*). The same percentage reduction in dose applies for children with renal impairment (see *Table 2*).

Table 1 Dosing recommendations – adults and adolescents 12 years and older.

Creatinine clearance mL/min	First dose of ZEFFIX oral solution†	Maintenance dose once daily
30 to <50	20 mL (100 mg)	10 mL (50 mg)
15 to <30	20 mL (100 mg)	5 mL (25 mg)
5 to <15	7 mL (35 mg)	3 mL (15 mg)
<5	7 mL (35 mg)	2 mL (10 mg)

† Lamivudine (Zeffix®) oral solution containing 5mg/mL lamivudine.

Table 2 Dosing recommendations – children 2 to 11 years.

Creatinine clearance mL/min	First dose of ZEFFIX oral solution†	Maintenance dose once daily
30 to <50	3 mg/kg	1.5 mg/kg
15 to <30	3 mg/kg	0.75 mg/kg

5 to <15	1 mg/kg	0.45 mg/kg
<5	1 mg/kg	0.3 mg/kg

† Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) oral solution containing 5mg/mL lamivudine.

Data available in patients undergoing intermittent haemodialysis (less than or equal to 4hours dialysis 2 to 3 times weekly), indicate that following the initial dosage reduction of Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) to correct for the patient's creatinine clearance, no further dosage adjustments are required while undergoing dialysis.

Tablets:

When doses below 100 mg are required Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) oral solution should be used.

- **Hepatic impairment**

Data obtained in patients with hepatic impairment, including those with end-stage liver disease awaiting transplant, show that Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) pharmacokinetics are not significantly affected by hepatic dysfunction.

Based on these data, no dose adjustment is necessary in patients with hepatic impairment unless accompanied by renal impairment.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) oral solution and tablets are contraindicated in patients with known hypersensitivity to Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) or to any ingredient of the preparations.

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

During initiation and maintenance of treatment patients should be monitored regularly by a physician experienced in the management of chronic hepatitis B.

If Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) is discontinued or there is a loss of efficacy, some patients may experience clinical or laboratory evidence of recurrent hepatitis. Exacerbation of hepatitis has primarily been detected by serum ALT elevations, in addition to the re-emergence of HBV DNA. See Table 4 in Clinical Studies for more information regarding frequency of post treatment ALT elevations. Most events appear to have been self-limited. Fatalities are very rare and the causal relationship to discontinuation of Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) treatment is unknown.

If Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) is discontinued, patients should be periodically monitored both clinically and by assessment of serum liver function tests (ALT and bilirubin levels), for at least four months for evidence of recurrent hepatitis; patients should then be followed as clinically indicated. For patients who develop evidence of recurrent hepatitis post-treatment, there are insufficient data on the benefits of re-initiation of Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) treatment.

In patients with moderate to severe renal impairment serum lamivudine concentrations (AUC) are increased due to decreased renal clearance, therefore the dose should be reduced for patients with a creatinine clearance of less than 50 mL/minute. (*see Dosage and Administration*).

Transplantation recipients and patients with advanced liver disease are at greater risk from active viral replication. Due to marginal liver function in these patients, hepatitis reactivation at discontinuation of Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) or loss of efficacy during treatment may induce severe and even fatal decompensation. It is recommended that these patients are monitored for parameters associated with hepatitis B, for liver and renal function, and for antiviral response during treatment. If treatment is discontinued for any reason, it is recommended that these patients are monitored for at least 6 months post cessation of treatment. Patients experiencing signs of hepatic insufficiency during or post-treatment should be monitored frequently, as appropriate.

There are limited data on the use of Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) in patients receiving concurrent immunosuppressive regimes, including cancer chemotherapy.

HBV viral subpopulations (YMDD variant HBV) with reduced susceptibility to Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) have been identified during extended therapy (*see Clinical studies*). In a minority of cases this variant can lead to recurrent hepatitis.

For the treatment of patients who are coinfecting with HIV and are currently receiving or are planning to receive an antiretroviral treatment regimen including lamivudine, the dose of lamivudine usually prescribed for HIV infection should be maintained.

There is no information available on maternal-foetal transmission of hepatitis B virus in pregnant women receiving treatment with Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]). The standard recommended procedures for hepatitis B virus immunisation in infants should be followed.

Patients should be advised that therapy with Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) has not been proven to reduce the risk of transmission of hepatitis B virus to others and therefore, appropriate precautions should still be taken.

Oral solution

Diabetic patients should be advised that each dose of oral solution (100 mg = 20 mL) contains 4 g of sucrose.

Effects on Ability to Drive and Use Machines

There have been no studies to investigate the effect of Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) on driving performance or the ability to operate machinery. Further, a detrimental effect on such activities would not be predicted from the pharmacology of the drug.

DRUG INTERACTIONS

The likelihood of metabolic interactions is low due to limited metabolism and plasma protein binding and almost complete renal elimination of unchanged drug.

Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) is predominantly eliminated by active organic cationic secretion. The possibility of interactions with other drugs administered concurrently should be considered, particularly when their main route of elimination is active renal secretion via the organic cationic transport system e.g. trimethoprim. Other drugs (e.g. ranitidine, cimetidine) are eliminated only in part by this mechanism and were shown not to interact with Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]).

Drugs shown to be predominately excreted either via the active organic anionic pathway, or by glomerular filtration are unlikely to yield clinically significant interactions with Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]).

Trimethoprim/sulphamethoxazole: Administration of trimethoprim/sulphamethoxazole 160 mg/800 mg increased Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) exposure by about 40%. Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) had no effect on the pharmacokinetics of trimethoprim or sulphamethoxazole. However, unless the patient has renal impairment, no dosage adjustment of Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) is necessary.

Zidovudine: A modest increase in C_{max} (28%) was observed for zidovudine when administered with Lamivudine (Zeffix[®]), however overall exposure (AUC) was not significantly altered. Zidovudine had no effect on the pharmacokinetics of Lamivudine (Zeffix[®]) (see *Pharmacokinetics*).

Alpha-interferon: Lamivudine (Zeffix[®]) has no pharmacokinetic interaction with alpha-interferon when the two drugs are concurrently administered. There were no observed clinically significant adverse interactions in patients taking Lamivudine (Zeffix[®]) concurrently with commonly used immunosuppressant drugs (e.g. cyclosporin A). However, formal interaction studies have not been performed.

Zalcitabine: Lamivudine (Zeffix[®]) may inhibit the intracellular phosphorylation of zalcitabine when the two medicinal products are used concurrently. Lamivudine (Zeffix[®]) is therefore not recommended to be used in combination with zalcitabine.

Emtricitabine: Lamivudine (Zeffix[®]) may inhibit the intracellular phosphorylation of emtricitabine when the two medicinal products are used concurrently. Lamivudine (Zeffix[®]) is not recommended for use in combination with emtricitabine.

PREGNANCY AND LACTATION

Reproductive studies in animals have shown no effect on male or female fertility.

Studies in humans have confirmed that Lamivudine (Zeffix[®]) crosses the placenta. Lamivudine concentrations in infant serum at birth were similar to those in maternal and cord serum at delivery.

Reproductive studies in animals have not shown evidence of teratogenicity. Lamivudine (Zeffix[®]) produced small increases in early embryonic loss when administered to pregnant rabbits, at exposure levels comparable to those achieved in man. However, there was no evidence of embryonic loss in rats at exposure levels of approximately 60 times the clinical exposure (based on C_{max}).

Use in pregnancy should be considered only if the benefit outweighs the risk. Although the results of animal studies are not always predictive of human response, the findings in the rabbit suggest a potential risk of early embryonic loss. Consequently, Lamivudine (Zeffix[®]) administration is not recommended during the first three months of pregnancy.

For patients who are being treated with Lamivudine (Zeffix[®]) and subsequently become pregnant consideration should be given to the possibility of a recurrence of hepatitis on discontinuation of Lamivudine (Zeffix[®]) (see *Warnings and Precautions*).

Following repeat oral administration of 150mg, lamivudine twice daily, lamivudine was excreted in human breast milk (0.5 to 8.2 micrograms/mL) at similar concentrations to those found in serum. In other studies following repeat oral administration of 150 mg lamivudine twice daily the maternal plasma breast milk ratio ranged between 0.6 and 3.3. Lamivudine median infant serum concentrations ranged between 18 and 28 ng/mL and were not detectable in one of the studies (assay sensitivity 7ng/mL). The clinical relevance of this finding is unknown.

Data from animal studies in which neonatal rats received Lamivudine (Zeffix[®]) at much higher concentrations via maternal milk suggest that the concentrations of lamivudine in human breast milk are unlikely to produce toxicity in breast fed infants.

Lamivudine (Zeffix[®]) should only be used in a nursing mother if the expected benefit justifies the potential risk to the infant. A decision must be made whether to discontinue breast-feeding or to discontinue/ abstain from Lamivudine (Zeffix[®]) therapy, taking into account the benefit of breast-feeding for the child and the benefit of therapy for the woman.

ADVERSE EFFECTS

Clinical Trial Data

In clinical studies of patients with chronic hepatitis B, Lamivudine (Zeffix[®]) was well tolerated. The incidence of adverse events and laboratory abnormalities (with the exception of elevations of ALT and CPK, see below) were similar between placebo and Lamivudine (Zeffix[®]) treated patients (see Table 3). The most common adverse events reported were malaise and fatigue, respiratory tract infections, headache, abdominal discomfort and pain, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea.

Table 3.

Adverse event	Clinical trial data: Integrated phase III data	
	Placebo (n=200)	Lamivudine (Zeffix [®]) 100 mg (n=416)
Malaise & Fatigue	28%	26%
Respiratory tract infection	17%	19%
Headache	21%	22%
Abdominal discomfort & pain	17%	15%
Nausea & vomiting	17%	16%
Diarrhoea	12%	14%
ALT elevations during treatment†	13%	13%
ALT elevations post treatment††	8%	19%
Elevated CPK†	5%	9%

† Percentage of patients experiencing a grade III or IV laboratory abnormality during treatment.

†† Percentage of patients experiencing a grade III or IV elevation in ALT post-treatment.

Adverse reactions are listed below by system organ class and frequency. Frequency categories are only assigned to those adverse reactions considered to be at least possibly causally related to Lamivudine (Zeffix[®]). Frequencies are defined as: very common (≥1/10), common (≥1/100 to <1/10), uncommon (≥1/1000 to <1/100), rare (≥1/10,000 to <1/1000) and very rare (<1/10,000).

The frequency categories assigned to the adverse reactions below are estimates: for most events, suitable data for calculating incidence are not available. Very common and common adverse drug reaction frequency categories were

determined from clinical trial data and the background incidence in placebo groups was not taken into account. Adverse drug reactions identified through post-marketing surveillance were categorised as rare or very rare.

Hepatobiliary disorders

Very common: Elevations of ALT

Elevations in ALT were more common post-treatment in patients treated with Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) than placebo. In controlled trials in patients with compensated liver disease, however, there was no appreciable difference post treatment in clinically severe ALT elevations associated with bilirubin elevations and / or signs of hepatic insufficiency, between Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) and placebo treated patients. The relationship of these recurrent hepatitis events to Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) treatment or to the previous underlying disease is uncertain (see *Warnings and Precautions*).

Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders

Common: Elevations of CPK

Post Marketing Data

In addition to adverse events reported from clinical trials, the following events have been identified during post-approval use of Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]).

Blood and lymphatic system disorders

Very rare: Thrombocytopenia.

Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders

Common: Muscle disorders, including myalgia and cramps

Very Rare: Rhabdomyolysis

In patients with HIV infection, cases of pancreatitis and peripheral neuropathy (or parasthesia) have been reported, although no relationship to treatment with lamivudine (*EPIVIR*[™]) has been clearly established. In patients with chronic hepatitis B there was no observed difference in incidence of these events between placebo and Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) treated patients.

Cases of lactic acidosis, usually associated with severe hepatomegaly and hepatic steatosis, have been reported with the use of combination nucleoside analogue therapy in patients with HIV. There have been occasional reports of these adverse events in hepatitis B patients with decompensated liver disease, however there is no evidence that these events were related to treatment with Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]).

OVERDOSAGE AND TREATMENT

Administration of Lamivudine (*Zeffix*[®]) at very high dose levels in acute animal studies did not result in any organ toxicity. Limited data are available on the consequences of ingestion of acute overdoses in humans. No fatalities occurred, and the patients recovered. No specific signs or symptoms have been identified following such overdose.

If overdose occurs the patient should be monitored, and standard supportive treatment applied as required. Since lamivudine is dialysable, continuous haemodialysis could be used in the treatment of overdose, although this has not been studied.

STORAGE CONDITIONS

Store at temperatures not exceeding 30°C.

AVAILABILITY

Lamivudine (*Zeffix*) 100mg Tablet: 7 tablets per double foil blisters, laminated with polyvinylchloride (Box of 14's)

CAUTIONS

Foods, Drugs, Devices and Cosmetics Act prohibits dispensing without prescription.

Keep all medicines out of reach of children.

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