Treating Opportunistic Infections among HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents: Recommendations from CDC, the National Institutes of Health, and the HIV Medicine Association/Infectious Diseases Society of America

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The CDC, National Institutes of Health, and the HIV Medicine Association of the Infectious Diseases Society of America have developed guidelines for treatment of opportunistic infections (OIs) among adults and adolescents infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). These guidelines are intended for clinicians and other health-care providers who care for HIV-infected adults and adolescents, including pregnant women; they complement companion guidelines for treatment of OIs among HIV-infected children and previously published guidelines for prevention of OIs in these populations. They include evidence-based guidelines for treatment of 28 OIs caused by protozoa, bacteria, fungi, and viruses, including certain OIs endemic in other parts of the world but that might be observed in patients in the United States. Each OI section includes information on epidemiology, clinical manifestations, diagnosis, treatment recommendations, monitoring and adverse events, management of treatment failure, prevention of recurrence, and special considerations in pregnancy. Tables address drugs and doses, drug toxicities, drug interactions, adjustment of drug doses in persons with reduced renal function, and data about use of drugs in pregnant women.

INTRODUCTION

Opportunistic infections (OIs) continue to cause morbidity and mortality in patients with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)-1 infection throughout the world. Potent combination antiretroviral therapy (ART) has reduced the incidence of OIs for certain patients with access to care. However, certain patients in the developed and developing world do not have access to care and have OIs. Other patients do not have a sustained response to antiretroviral agents for multiple reasons, including poor adherence, drug toxicities, drug interactions, or initial acquisition of a drug-resistant strain of HIV-1. Therefore, OIs will continue to cause substantial morbidity and mortality in patients with HIV-1 infection.

The therapy of OIs has changed substantially during the AIDS epidemic. As more information about efficacy, toxicity, and interactions of the drugs to treat and prevent OIs has emerged, management strategies have evolved. New drugs have also become available that occupy important roles in our therapeutic armamentarium.

These guidelines and the accompanying guidelines, Treating Opportunistic Infections Among HIV-Exposed and Infected Children, join two previous guidelines, The United States Public Health Service-Infectious Diseases Society of America Guidelines for the Prevention of Opportunistic Infections in Persons Infected with the Human