

Special Contribution**2014 Update of the Drug Resistance Mutations in HIV-1**

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This July 2014 edition of the IAS–USA drug resistance mutations list updates the figures last published in March 2013.¹

The following mutations have been added to existing classes or drugs: K65E/N has been added to the bars for the nucleoside and nucleotide analogue reverse transcriptase inhibitors (nRTIs) abacavir, didanosine, emtricitabine, lamivudine, stavudine, and tenofovir²; L100I has been added to the bar for the nonnucleoside analogue reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTI) rilpivirine^{3,4}; and F121Y has been added to the bars for the integrase strand transfer inhibitors (INSTIs) dolutegravir, elvitegravir, and raltegravir.^{5,6} With regard to protease inhibitors (PIs), it cannot be excluded that drug resistance may be selected for outside the protease encoding region.^{7,8}

Methods

The IAS–USA Drug Resistance Mutations Group is an independent, volunteer panel of experts charged with delivering accurate, unbiased, and evidence-based information on these mutations to HIV clinical practitioners. As with all IAS–USA volunteer panels, members are rotated on a structured, planned basis. The group reviews new data on HIV drug resistance to maintain a current list of mutations associated with clinical resistance to HIV. This list includes mutations that may contribute to a reduced virologic response to a drug.

In addition, the group considers only data that have been published or have been presented at a scientific

conference. Drugs that have been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as well as any drugs available in expanded access programs are included (listed in alphabetical order by drug class). User notes provide additional information as necessary. Although the Drug Resistance Mutations Group works to maintain a complete and current list of these mutations, it cannot be assumed that the list presented here is exhaustive.

Identification of Mutations

The mutations listed are those that have been identified by 1 or more of the following criteria: (1) *in vitro* passage experiments or validation of contribution to resistance by using site-directed mutagenesis; (2) susceptibility testing of laboratory or clinical isolates; (3) nucleotide sequencing of viruses from patients in whom the drug is failing; (4) association studies between genotype at baseline and virologic response in patients exposed to the drug.

The development of more recently approved drugs that cannot be tested as monotherapy precludes assessment of the impact of resistance on antiretroviral activity that is not seriously confounded by activity of other drug components in the background regimen. Readers are encouraged to consult the literature and experts in the field for clarification or more information about specific mutations and their clinical impact. Polymorphisms associated with impaired treatment responses that occur in otherwise

wild-type viruses should not be used in epidemiologic analyses to identify transmitted HIV-1 drug resistance.

Clinical Context

The figures are designed for practitioners to use in identifying key mutations associated with antiretroviral drug resistance and in making therapeutic decisions. In the context of making clinical decisions regarding antiretroviral therapy, evaluating the results of HIV-1 genotypic testing includes: (1) assessing whether the pattern or absence of a pattern in the mutations is consistent with the patient's antiretroviral therapy history; (2) recognizing that in the absence of drug (selection pressure), resistant strains may be present at levels below the limit of detection of the test (analyzing stored samples, collected under selection pressure, could be useful in this setting); and (3) recognizing that virologic failure of the first regimen typically involves HIV-1 isolates with resistance to only 1 or 2 of the drugs in the regimen (in this setting, resistance develops most commonly to lamivudine or emtricitabine or the NNRTIs).

The absence of detectable viral resistance after treatment failure may result from any combination of the following factors: the presence of drug-resistant minority viral populations, a prolonged interval between the time of antiretroviral drug discontinuation and genotypic testing, nonadherence to medications, laboratory error, lack of current knowledge of the association

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of certain mutations with drug resistance, the occurrence of relevant mutations outside the regions targeted by routine resistance assays, drug-drug interactions leading to subtherapeutic drug levels, and possibly compartmental issues, indicating that drugs may not reach optimal levels in specific cellular or tissue reservoirs.

For more in-depth reading and an extensive reference list, see the 2008 IAS–USA panel recommendations for resistance testing⁹ and 2014 IAS–USA panel recommendations for antiretroviral therapy.¹⁰ Updates are posted periodically at www.iasusa.org.

Comments


Please send your evidence-based comments, including relevant reference citations, to the **journal** “at.iasusa.org” or by fax to 415-544-9401.

Reprint Requests

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Financial affiliations in the past 12 months: The authors (listed alphabetically) disclose the following affiliations with commercial organizations that may have interests related to the content of this article: Dr Calvez has served on advisory boards for Abbott Laboratories, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Gilead Sciences, Inc, GlaxoSmithKline, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc, Pfizer, Inc, Roche, and ViiV Healthcare. Dr Günthard has served as an advisor and/or consultant for Abbott Laboratories, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Gilead Sciences, Inc, GlaxoSmithKline, Novartis, Pfizer, Inc, Roche, and Tibotec Therapeutics, with all compensation going to his institution, University Hospital of Zurich. He has received unrestricted research and educational grants to his institution from Abbott Laboratories, AstraZeneca, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Gilead Sciences, Inc, GlaxoSmithKline, Merck Sharp & Dohme, and Roche; has served on a data and safety monitoring board for Merck Sharp & Dohme; and has received travel grants from Bristol-Myers Squibb and Gilead Sciences, Inc. Dr Johnson has received research support from Abbott Molecular, Roche Molecular Diagnostics, and Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics, Inc. Dr Paredes has received research grants awarded to IrsiCaixa and Lluita Contra la SIDA Foundations from Gilead Sciences, Inc, and ViiV Healthcare. Dr Pillay has no relevant financial affiliations to disclose. Dr Richman has been a consultant to Bristol-Myers Squibb, Chimerix, Gen-Probe Inc, Gilead Sciences, Inc, Sirenas, Prism, and Monogram Biosciences, Inc. He owns stock from Chimerix. Dr Shafer has served as a consultant or advisor for Celera and has received grants from Bristol-Myers Squibb F. Hoffmann-La Roche, Ltd, Gilead Sciences, Inc, and Merck & Co, Inc. Dr Wensing has served on advisory boards for Bristol-Myers Squibb and Gilead Sciences, Inc; has received grants from Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc, and ViiV Healthcare; and has received travel, accommodation, or meeting expenses from Bristol-Myers Squibb and Virology Education.

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MUTATIONS IN THE REVERSE TRANSCRIPTASE GENE ASSOCIATED WITH RESISTANCE TO REVERSE TRANSCRIPTASE INHIBITORS

Nucleoside and Nucleotide Analogue Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitors (nRTIs)^a

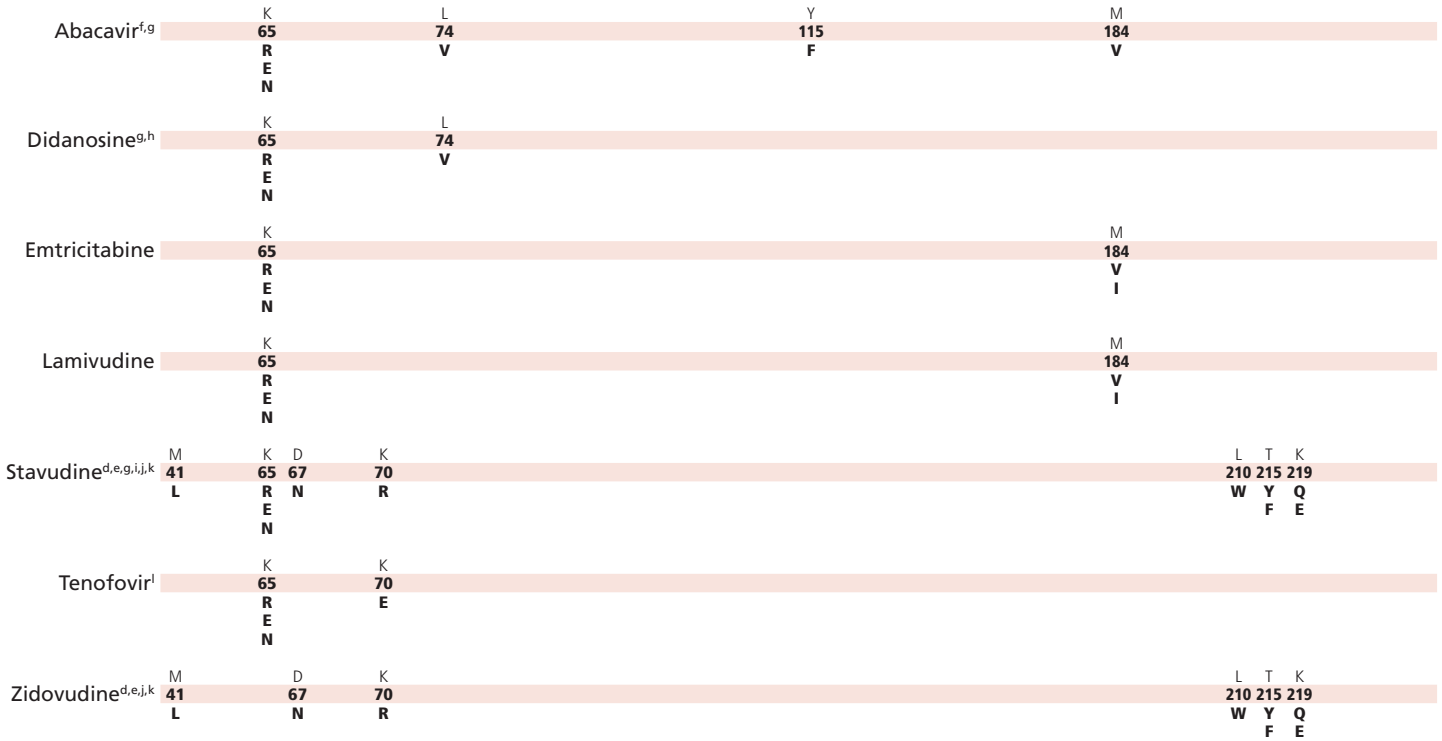
Multi-nRTI Resistance: 69 Insertion Complex^b (affects all nRTIs currently approved by the US FDA)



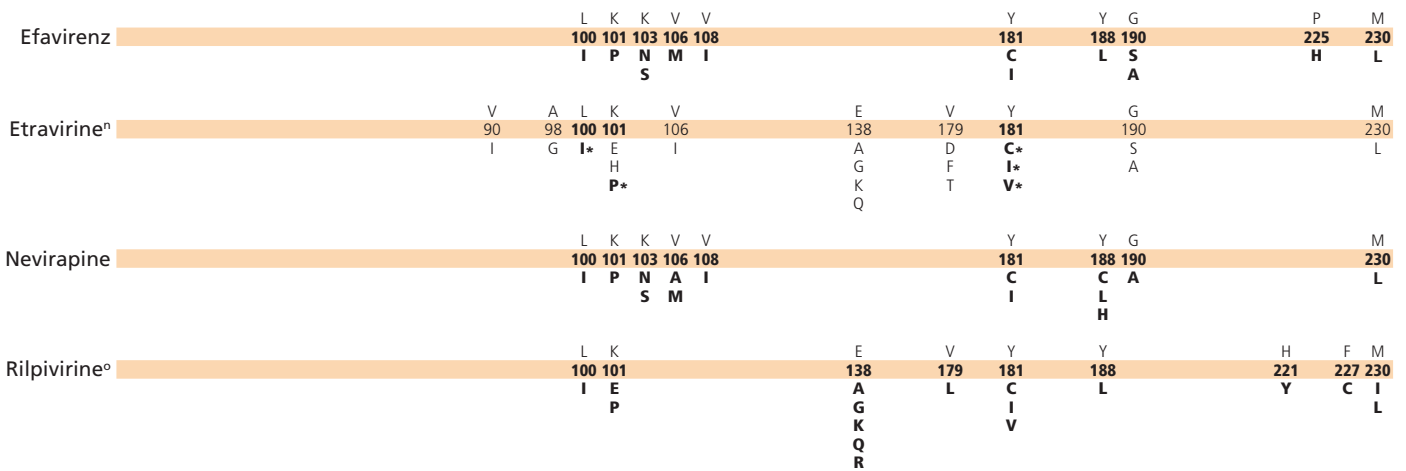
Multi-nRTI Resistance: 151 Complex^c (affects all nRTIs currently approved by the US FDA except tenofovir)



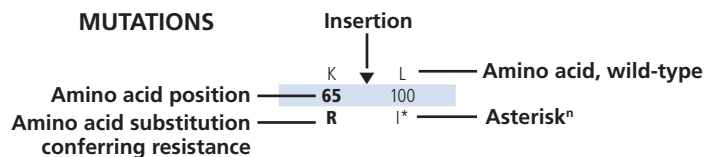
Multi-nRTI Resistance: Thymidine Analogue-Associated Mutations^{d,e} (TAMs; affect all nRTIs currently approved by the US FDA)



Nonnucleoside Analogue Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitors (NNRTIs)^{a,m}



Amino acid abbreviations: A, alanine; C, cysteine; D, aspartate; E, glutamate; F, phenylalanine; G, glycine; H, histidine; I, isoleucine; K, lysine; L, leucine; M, methionine; N, asparagine; P, proline; Q, glutamine; R, arginine; S, serine; T, threonine; V, valine; W, tryptophan; Y, tyrosine.



User Notes

a. Some nucleoside (or nucleotide) analogue reverse transcriptase inhibitor (nRTI) mutations, like T215Y and H208Y,¹ may lead to viral hypersusceptibility to the nonnucleoside analogue reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs), including etravirine,² in nRTI-treated individuals. The presence of these mutations may improve subsequent virologic response to NNRTI-containing regimens (nevirapine or efavirenz) in NNRTI-naïve individuals,³⁻⁷ although no clinical data exist for improved response to etravirine in NNRTI-experienced individuals. Mutations at the C-terminal reverse transcriptase domains (amino acids 293-560) outside of regions depicted on the figure bars may prove to be important for nRTI and NNRTI HIV-1 drug resistance. The clinical relevance of these connection domain mutations arises mostly in conjunction with thymidine analogue-associated mutations (TAMs) and M184V and have not been associated with increased rates of virologic failure of etravirine or rilpivirine in clinical trials.⁸⁻¹⁰ K65E/N variants are increasingly reported in patients experiencing treatment failure with tenofovir, stavudine, or didanosine. K65E usually occurs in mixtures with wild type. K65N gives an approximately 4-fold decrease in susceptibility. Patient-derived viruses with K65E and site-directed mutations replicate very poorly in vitro; as such, no susceptibility testing can be performed.^{11,12}

b. The 69 insertion complex consists of a substitution at codon 69 (typically T69S) and an insertion of 2 or more amino acids (S-S, S-A, S-G, or others). The 69 insertion complex is associated with resistance to all nRTIs currently approved by the US FDA when present with 1 or more TAMs at codons 41, 210, or 215.¹³ Some other amino acid changes from the wild-type T at codon 69 without the insertion may be associated with broad nRTI resistance.

c. Tenofovir retains activity against the Q151M complex of mutations.¹⁵ Q151M is the most important mutation in the complex (ie, the other mutations in the complex [A62V, V75I, F77L, and F116Y] in isolation may not reflect multidrug resistance).

d. Mutations known to be selected by TAMs (ie, M41L, D67N, K70R, L210W, T215Y/F, and K219Q/E) also confer reduced susceptibility to all currently approved nRTIs.¹⁴ The degree to which cross-resistance is observed depends on the specific mutations and number of mutations involved.¹⁵⁻¹⁸

e. Although reverse transcriptase changes associated with the E44D and V118I mutations may have an accessory role in increased resistance to nRTIs in the presence of TAMs, their clinical relevance is very limited.¹⁹⁻²¹

f. The M184V mutation alone does not appear to be associated with a reduced virologic

response to abacavir in vivo. When associated with TAMs, M184V increases abacavir resistance.^{22,23}

g. As with tenofovir, the K65R mutation may be selected by didanosine, abacavir, or stavudine (particularly in patients with nonsubtype-B clades) and is associated with decreased viral susceptibility to these drugs.^{22,24,25} Data are lacking on the potential negative impact of K65R on clinical response to didanosine.

h. The presence of 3 of the following mutations—M41L, D67N, L210W, T215Y/F, K219Q/E—is associated with resistance to didanosine.²⁶ The presence of K70R or M184V alone does not decrease virologic response to didanosine.²⁷

i. K65R is selected frequently (4% – 11%) in patients with some nonsubtype-B clades for whom stavudine-containing regimens are failing in the absence of tenofovir.^{28,29}

j. The presence of M184V appears to delay or prevent emergence of TAMs.³⁰ This effect may be overcome by an accumulation of TAMs or other mutations.

k. The T215A/C/D/E/G/H/I/L/N/S/V substitutions are revertant mutations at codon 215 that confer increased risk of virologic failure of zidovudine or stavudine in antiretroviral-naïve patients.^{31,32} The T215Y mutant may emerge quickly from one of these mutations in the presence of zidovudine or stavudine.³³

l. The presence of K65R is associated with a reduced virologic response to tenofovir.¹³ A reduced response also occurs in the presence of 3 or more TAMs inclusive of either M41L or L210W.¹³ The presence of TAMs or combined treatment with zidovudine prevents the emergence of K65R in the presence of tenofovir.³⁴⁻³⁶

m. There is no evidence for the utility of efavirenz, nevirapine, or rilpivirine in patients with NNRTI resistance.³⁷

n. Resistance to etravirine has been extensively studied only in the context of coadministration with darunavir/ritonavir. In this context, mutations associated with virologic outcome have been assessed and their relative weights (or magnitudes of impact) assigned. In addition, phenotypic cutoff values have been calculated, and assessment of genotype-phenotype correlations from a large clinical database have determined relative importance of the various mutations. These 2 approaches are in agreement for many, but not all, mutations and weights.³⁸⁻⁴⁰ Asterisks (*) are used to emphasize higher relative weights with regard to reduced susceptibility and reduced clinical response compared with other etravirine mutations.⁴¹ The single mutations L1001*, K101P*, and

Y181C*/I*/V* reduce clinical utility. The presence of K103N alone does not affect etravirine response.⁴² Accumulation of several mutations results in greater reductions in susceptibility and virologic response than do single mutations.⁴³⁻⁴⁵

o. Fifteen mutations have been associated with decreased rilpivirine susceptibility (K101E/P, E138A/G/K/Q/R, V179L, Y181C/I/V, H221Y, F227C, and M230I/L).⁴⁶⁻⁴⁸ A 16th mutation, Y188L, reduces rilpivirine susceptibility 6-fold.⁴⁹ K101P and Y181I/V reduce rilpivirine susceptibility about 50-fold and 15-fold, respectively, but are uncommonly observed in patients receiving rilpivirine.⁵⁰⁻⁵² K101E, E138K, and Y181C, each of which reduces rilpivirine susceptibility 2.5-fold to 3-fold, occur commonly in patients receiving rilpivirine. E138K and to a lesser extent K101E usually occur in combination with the nRTI resistance mutation M184I, which alone does not reduce rilpivirine susceptibility. When M184I is combined with E138K or K101E, rilpivirine susceptibility is reduced about 7-fold and 4.5-fold, respectively.⁵²⁻⁵⁵ The combinations of reverse transcriptase mutations L1001 + K103N/S and L1001 + K103R + V179D were strongly associated with reduced susceptibility to rilpivirine. However, for isolates harboring the L1001/K103N/R/S or V179D as single mutations, no reduction in susceptibility was detected.^{48,56}

p. Often, numerous mutations are necessary to substantially impact virologic response to a ritonavir-boosted protease inhibitor (PI).⁵⁷ In some specific circumstances, atazanavir might be used unboosted. In such cases, the mutations that are selected are the same as with ritonavir-boosted atazanavir, but the relative frequency of mutations may differ.

q. Resistance mutations in the protease gene are classified as “major” or “minor.”

Major mutations in the protease gene (positions in bold type) are defined as those selected first in the presence of the drug or those substantially reducing drug susceptibility. These mutations tend to be the primary contact residues for drug binding.

Minor mutations generally emerge later than major mutations and by themselves do not have a substantial effect on phenotype. They may improve replication of viruses containing major mutations. Some minor mutations are present as common polymorphic changes in HIV-1 nonsubtype-B clades.

Mutations in the cytoplasmic tail of gp41 of *env* or mutations in *gag* cleavage sites may confer resistance to all protease inhibitors and may emerge before mutations in protease do.^{58,59} A large proportion of virus samples from patients with confirmed virologic failure on a PI-containing regimen is not found to have PI resistance mutations. Preliminary

data from recent studies suggest that several mutations in the Gag protein⁶⁰ and in the cytoplasmic tail of the Env protein⁵⁹ may be responsible for reduced PI susceptibility in a subset of these patients.

r. Ritonavir is not listed separately, as it is currently used only at low dose as a pharmacologic booster of other PIs.

s. Many mutations are associated with atazanavir resistance. Their impacts differ, with I50L, I84V, and N88S having the greatest effect. Higher atazanavir levels obtained with ritonavir boosting increase the number of mutations required for loss of activity. The presence of M46I plus L76V might increase susceptibility to atazanavir when no other related mutations are present.⁶¹

t. HIV-1 RNA response to ritonavir-boosted darunavir correlates with baseline susceptibility and the presence of several specific PI mutations. Reductions in response are associated with increasing numbers of the mutations indicated in the figure bar. The negative impact of the protease mutations I47V, I54M, T74P, and I84V and the positive impact of the protease mutation V82A on virologic response to darunavir/ritonavir were shown in 2 data sets independently.^{62,63} Some of these mutations appear to have a greater effect on susceptibility than others (eg, I50V vs V11I). A median darunavir phenotypic fold-change greater than 10 (low clinical cutoff) occurs with 3 or more of the 2007 IAS–USA mutations listed for darunavir⁶⁴ and is associated with a diminished virologic response.⁶⁵

u. The mutations depicted on the figure bar cannot be considered comprehensive because little relevant research has been reported in recent years to update the resistance and cross-resistance patterns for this drug.

v. In PI-experienced patients, the accumulation of 6 or more of the mutations indicated on the figure bar is associated with a reduced virologic response to lopinavir/ritonavir.^{66,67} The product information states that accumulation of 7 or 8 mutations confers resistance to the drug.⁶⁸ However, there is emerging evidence that specific mutations, most notably I47A (and possibly I47V) and V32I, are associated with high-level resistance.⁶⁹⁻⁷¹ The addition of L76V to 3 PI resistance-associated mutations substantially increases resistance to lopinavir/ritonavir.⁶¹

w. In some nonsubtype-B HIV-1, D30N is selected less frequently than are other PI mutations.⁷²

x. Clinical correlates of resistance to tipranavir are limited by the paucity of clinical trials and observational studies of the drug. The available genotypic scores have not been validated on large, diverse patient populations. The presence of mutations L24I, I50L/V,

F53Y/L/W, I54L, and L76V have been associated with improved virologic response to tipranavir in some studies.⁷³⁻⁷⁵

y. Resistance to enfuvirtide is associated primarily with mutations in the first heptad repeat (HR1) region of the gp41 envelope gene. However, mutations or polymorphisms in other regions of the envelope (eg, the HR2 region or those yet to be identified) as well as coreceptor usage and density may affect susceptibility to enfuvirtide.⁷⁶⁻⁷⁸

z. The activity of CC chemokine receptor 5 (CCR5) antagonists is limited to patients with virus that uses only CCR5 for entry (R5 virus). Viruses that use both CCR5 and CXCR4 (X4 virus) do not respond to treatment with CCR5 antagonists. Virologic failure of these drugs frequently is associated with outgrowth of D/M or X4 virus from a preexisting minority population present at levels below the limit of assay detection. Mutations in HIV-1 gp120 that allow the virus to bind to the drug-bound form of CCR5 have been described in viruses from some patients whose virus remained R5 after virologic failure of a CCR5 antagonist. Most of these mutations are found in the V3 loop, the major determinant of viral tropism. There is as yet no consensus on specific signature mutations for CCR5 antagonist resistance, so they are not depicted in the figure. Some CCR5 antagonist-resistant viruses selected in vitro have shown mutations in gp41 without mutations in V3.⁷⁹ The clinical significance of such mutations is not yet known.

aa. In site-directed mutants and clinical isolates, the mutation F121Y has a profound effect on susceptibility to elvitegravir and raltegravir and to a lesser extent to dolutegravir.^{59,60}

bb. Cross-resistance studies with raltegravir- and elvitegravir-resistant viruses indicate that Q148H and G140S in combination with mutations L74I/M, E92Q, T97A, E138A/K, G140A, or N155H are associated with 5-fold to 20-fold reduced dolutegravir susceptibility⁸⁰ and reduced virologic suppression in patients.⁸¹⁻⁸⁴ Results of the phase III dolutegravir study in antiretroviral treatment-naïve patients are expected to provide additional resistance information.

cc. Six elvitegravir codon mutations have been observed in integrase strand transfer inhibitor treatment-naïve and -experienced patients in whom therapy is failing.⁸⁵⁻⁹¹ T97A results in only a 2-fold change in elvitegravir susceptibility and may require additional mutations for resistance.^{88,89} The sequential use of elvitegravir and raltegravir (in either order) is not recommended because of cross-resistance between these drugs.⁸⁸

dd. Raltegravir failure is associated with integrase mutations in at least 3 distinct, but

not exclusive, genetic pathways defined by 2 or more mutations including (1) a signature (major) mutation at Q148H/K/R, N155H, or Y143R/H/C; and (2) 1 or more additional minor mutations. Minor mutations described in the Q148H/K/R pathway include L74M plus E138A, E138K, or G140S. The most common mutational pattern in this pathway is Q148H plus G140S, which also confers the greatest loss of drug susceptibility. Mutations described in the N155H pathway include this major mutation plus either L74M, E92Q, T97A, E92Q plus T97A, Y143H, G163K/R, V151I, or D232N.⁹² The Y143R/H/C mutation is uncommon.⁹³⁻⁹⁷ E92Q alone reduces susceptibility to elvitegravir more than 20-fold and causes limited (<5-fold) cross resistance to raltegravir.^{87,98-100} N155H mutants tend to predominate early in the course of raltegravir failure, but are gradually replaced by viruses with higher resistance, often bearing mutations G140S+Q148H/R/K, with continuing raltegravir treatment.⁹³

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