Abacavir Hypersensitivity Testing and Initial Patient Management Algorithm


Before initiating abacavir therapy, screen patients for HLA-B*57:01 allele to decrease the risk of hypersensitivity reaction.

Order HL57R / HLA-B*57:01 Genotype, Pharmacogenomics, Varies

**HLA-B*57:01**

**POSITIVE**

Do not initiate abacavir therapy

**NEGATIVE**

Initiate abacavir therapy

Most hypersensitivity reactions occur during the first few weeks-to-months of therapy. Patient should be monitored for the following:
- Fever
- Nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhea
- Malaise/fatigue
- Headache
- Myalgia/arthralgia
- Skin rash
- Shortness of breath, cough, pharyngitis

Patient has skin rash or a combination of symptoms within the first few weeks to months of starting abacavir, consistent with hypersensitivity reaction.

- Promptly discontinue abacavir therapy
- Consultation with an HIV provider is strongly recommended