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Pyrazinamide

Updated: December 20, 2020.

OVERVIEW

Introduction

Pyrazinamide is a first line antituberculosis medication, but is used only in combination with other antituberculosis medications such as isoniazid or rifampin. Pyrazinamide is associated with transient and asymptomatic elevations in serum aminotransferase levels and is a well known cause of clinically apparent, acute liver injury that can be severe and even fatal.

Background

Pyrazinamide (pir" a zin' a mide) is a synthetic pyrazine analogue of nicotinamide that has potent activity against mycobacterium tuberculosis. Its mechanism of action is unknown, but it appears to be both bactericidal and bacteriostatic. Pyrazinamide is considered an adjunctive therapy of tuberculosis and is always used in combination with another antimycobacterial agent such as isoniazid or rifampin. Pyrazinamide was developed and introduced into clinical use in 1956 and continues to be commonly used in therapy of active tuberculosis, but not for latent tuberculosis. It is available as tablets of 500 mg in several generic forms. A fixed combination of pyrazinamide (300 mg) with isoniazid (50 mg) and rifampin (120 mg) is also available under the brand name of Rifater. The recommended dosage of pyrazinamide is 15 to 30 mg/kg daily in one or more doses, but not in excess of 2 grams daily. Pyrazinamide can also be given in a twice weekly regimen of 50 to 70 mg/kg per dose allowing for observed administration and better compliance. Typically, pyrazinamide and ethambutol are given only for the first two months of 3- or 4-drug combination therapy of active tuberculosis, with continuation of isoniazid and rifampin for at least six months. Common side effects of pyrazinamide are fatigue, anorexia, gastrointestinal upset, arthralgias, rash and photosensitivity.

The management of tuberculosis is challenging and should be under the direction of physicians with expertise in tuberculosis therapy and management of its side effects. Optimal regimens of therapy for tuberculosis are complex and change frequently. Regularly updated recommendations on use of drugs for tuberculosis, including indications, contraindications, warnings, dosages and monitoring recommendations are available at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website: http://www.cdc.gov/tb/publications/guidelines/Treatment.htm.

Hepatotoxicity

Combination therapy for tuberculosis using pyrazinamide is commonly associated with transient and asymptomatic elevations in the serum aminotransferase levels. These elevations are usually less than five times the upper limit of the normal range. Because pyrazinamide is used only in combination with other antituberculosis medications, its contributions to serum enzyme elevations is not completely clear, but it is frequently incriminated in transient serum enzyme elevations. Clinically apparent liver disease with symptoms

and jaundice also occur with pyrazinamide therapy and it is often considered the culprit in causing liver injury in the face of double or triple antituberculosis therapy (Case 1). Indeed, the use of a short, 2 month course of combination therapy with rifampin and pyrazinamide for latent tuberculosis was abandoned because of the frequency of severe liver injury with this regimen that was occasionally fatal (Case 2). The onset of injury due to pyrazinamide is generally after 4 to 8 weeks and occasionally becomes apparent only after the pyrazinamide is stopped. The pattern of liver enzyme elevations is typically hepatocellular and the clinical syndrome resembles acute viral hepatitis, much like isoniazid hepatotoxicity. Features of hypersensitivity (rash, fever and eosinophilia) are uncommon as are autoantibody formation. Liver biopsy demonstrates changes typical of acute hepatitis with portal and lobular inflammation, hepatocellular necrosis and variable degrees of cholestasis.

Likelihood score: A (well known cause of clinically apparent liver injury).

Mechanism of Injury

The mechanism of hepatic injury by pyrazinamide is not known, but the drug is extensively metabolized by the liver and injury may be caused by a metabolic intermediate. Hepatotoxicity from pyrazinamide appears to be more frequent with higher doses, suggesting a direct toxic effect, at least in part.

Outcome and Management

The appearance of liver injury with symptoms and serum aminotransferase levels above 3 times the ULN or any elevation in aminotransferase levels above 5 times the ULN should prompt withdrawal of pyrazinamide. Many cases of pyrazinamide hepatotoxicity are severe and prolonged, and fatal instances have occurred. Pyrazinamide has not been linked to chronic hepatitis or vanishing bile duct syndrome. There is no cross reactivity of the hepatic injury with other currently available antituberculosis agents.

After drug induced liver injury from combination antituberculosis therapy, reinitiation of therapy, if necessary, can be achieved best by sequential and incremental introduction of the agents (generally isoniazid and rifampicin), but that restarting several drugs at the standard dosage should be avoided particularly starting with pyrazinamide in full doses.

[First line medications used in the therapy of tuberculosis in the United States include isoniazid, pyrazinamide, ethambutol and the rifamycins including rifampin, rifabutin and rifapentine. Second line medications include streptomycin, capreomycin, cycloserine, ethionamide, bedaquiline, pretomanid, fluoroquinolones such as levofloxacin, and moxifloxacin, aminoglycosides such as amikacin, and para-aminosalicylic acid (PAS).]

Drug Class: Antituberculosis Agents

Other Drugs in the Class: Bedaquiline, Capreomycin, Cycloserine, Ethambutol, Ethionamide, Isoniazid, Pretomanid, Rifabutin, Rifampin, Rifapentine, Streptomycin

CASE REPORTS

Case 1. Acute liver failure due to combination antituberculosis therapy.(1)

A 60 year old woman with pulmonary tuberculosis was treated with isoniazid (300 mg daily), rifampin (600 mg daily) and pyrazinamide (1.5 gram daily) and improved rapidly, but was found to have jaundice with bilirubin 3.5 mg/dL, AST 538 U/L and alkaline phosphatase 148 U/L six weeks after starting therapy (Table). Her liver tests were reported to be normal before treatment. She had no history of liver disease, alcohol abuse, or risk factors for viral hepatitis. Isoniazid and rifampin were stopped but pyrazinamide continued. One week later, she was admitted to a local hospital for worsening hepatic function. She was mildly encephalopathic and the prothrombin time was prolonged. She was transferred to a liver transplant center. She was in stage 3 hepatic

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coma and required artificial ventilation. Pyrazinamide was stopped and ofloxacin, ethambutol and streptomycin started. Blood tests for hepatitis A, B and C were negative. She underwent successful liver transplantation 5 days after transfer and 3 weeks after onset of symptoms. She recovered uneventfully and was discharged 16 days after transplant on cyclosporine and prednisone. She was maintained on ethambutol, streptomycin and ofloxacin for tuberculosis, and sputum cultures remained negative.

Key Points

Medication:	Isoniazid, rifampin, pyrazinamide	
Pattern:	Hepatocellular (R=10.1)	
Severity:	5+ (acute liver failure requiring liver transplantation)	
Latency:	6 weeks	
Recovery:	No	
Other medications:	None mentioned	

Laboratory Values

Time After Starting	Time After Stopping	AST* (U/L)	Protime* (Seconds)	Bilirubin* (mg/dL)	Other
Pre		Normal	Normal	Normal	
Isoniazid, rifampin and pyrazinamide started for active tuberculosis					
6 weeks	-7 days	548		3.5	
7 weeks	0	1640	22.4	22.4	Admission
	3 days	1100	34.0	32.0	Transfer
8 weeks	7 days	350	41.0	21.0	
		Emergency liver transplantation			
3 months	1 month	30	11.0	5.0	Discharge
Norma	l Values	<40	<14	<1.2	

^{*} Some values estimated from Figure 2.

Comment

This case demonstrates an acute viral hepatitis-like presentation of drug induced liver injury. While the case represents "definite" drug induced liver disease, it is impossible to be definitive about which agent was responsible. Isoniazid is a likely culprit, but pyrazinamide and (to a lesser degree) rifampin are also capable of causing acute severe liver injury, and continuing pyrazinamide in the face of an acute hepatitis-like syndrome was not advisable. Despite stopping isoniazid and rifampin therapy promptly, the patient progressed to hepatic failure and required liver transplantation within 3 weeks of initial presentation. Risk factors for antituberculosis therapy associated hepatitis included age and combination therapy. Risk factors for severe outcome were age and sex.

Case 2. Acute liver failure complicating two month course of rifampin and pyrazinamide.(2)

A 68 year old man with a history of a positive tuberculin test requested antituberculosis therapy so as to obviate the need for annual chest X-rays required by his employer. He had a history of alcoholic liver disease, but had stopped drinking 5 years previously. He also had gout, hypertension and type 2 diabetes for which he took aspirin, colchicine, ibuprofen, lisinopril and metformin on a chronic basis. He was started on rifampin (600 mg

daily) and pyrazinamide (2 grams daily) and monitored monthly. He tolerated therapy without symptoms and liver tests were normal at baseline and at one month (Table). Immediately after stopping therapy, however, he began to feel ill and presented to the emergency room with jaundice, lethargy and confusion. On examination, he was icteric and had asterixis. Laboratory tests showed marked elevations in serum aminotransferase levels and bilirubin of 16.7 mg/dL. The prothrombin time was prolonged [INR 6.0]; and there were elevations in serum creatinine (5.4 mg/dL), ammonia (181 μ mol/L: normal <35) and lactate (13.2 mmol/L, normal <2.2). Abdominal ultrasound showed ascites, but no evidence of biliary obstruction. He was given supportive care but developed worsening coma, respiratory and renal failure and died 3 days after admission.

Key Points

Medication:	Pyrazinamide, rifampin	
Pattern:	Hepatocellular (R=10)	
Severity:	5+ (death)	
Latency:	2 months	
Recovery:	None	
Other medications:	Aspirin, colchicine, ibuprofen, lisinopril, metformin	

Laboratory Values

Time After Starting	Time After Stopping	ALT (U/L)	Alk P (U/L)	Bilirubin (mg/dL)	Other
Pre		48	66	0.5	INR=1.0
0		Pyrazinamide and rifampin started			
2 weeks		31	63	0.5	
8 weeks	0	Pyrazinamide and rifampin stopped: asymptomatic			
	3 days	620	175	16.7	INR=6.0
9 weeks	6 days	1930	207	19.2	INR=10.1
8 days Death from multiorgan failu			ilure		
Normal Values		<45	<130	<1.2	

Comment

The patient developed an abrupt onset of acute liver failure a few days after stopping an 8 week course of rifampin and pyrazinamide for latent tuberculosis. This combination is highly effective for latent tuberculosis, but has been associated with an unacceptably high rate of liver injury and cases of acute liver failure, for which reasons it is no longer recommended. Whether the injury was due to pyrazinamide or rifampin was unclear; there is likely an interaction that promotes the risk of injury. The risk of liver injury increases with age not just with isoniazid, but also with other antituberculosis medications and combinations. History of alcohol abuse and alcoholic liver injury are believed to also be risk factors for antituberculosis medication hepatotoxicity, but it has not been clearly defined. Because pyrazinamide inhibits the renal excretion of urates, it should be used with caution in patients with gout. This report does not mention testing for viral hepatitis or autopsy results; but the clinical history and course are entirely compatible with drug induced liver injury from antituberculosis medications.

PRODUCT INFORMATION

REPRESENTATIVE TRADE NAMES

Pyrazinamide – Generic, Tebrazid®

DRUG CLASS

Antituberculosis Agents

COMPLETE LABELING

Product labeling at DailyMed, National Library of Medicine, NIH

CHEMICAL FORMULA AND STRUCTURE

DRUG	CAS REGISTRY NUMBER	MOLECULAR FORMULA	STRUCTURE
Pyrazinamide	98-96-4	C5-H5-N3-O	N N

CITED REFERENCES

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Abbreviations: DRESS, drug rash with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms; HIV, human immunodeficiency virus; MAC, Mycobacterium avium complex; PAS, para-aminosalicylic acid.

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(Extensive review of hepatotoxicity of antituberculosis medications including pyrazinamide published in 1999).

Verma S, Kaplowitz N. Hepatotoxicity of antituberculosis drugs. In, Kaplowitz N, DeLeve LD, eds. Druginduced liver disease. 3rd ed. Amsterdam: Elsevier, 2013, pp. 483-504.

(Review of hepatotoxicity of antituberculosis drugs).

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- (Textbook of pharmacology and therapeutics).
- Aquinas SM. Reactions to antituberculosis drugs among Chinese in Hong Kong. Tubercle. 1964;45:181–7. PubMed PMID: 14227802.
- (Among 389 patients treated with pyrazinamide and ethionamide for tuberculosis, side effects requiring discontinuation of therapy occurred in 4 [1%], including 3 with jaundice [all attributed to pyrazinamide], one of whom died).
- Ramakrishnan CV, Janardhanam B, Krishnamurthy DV, Stott H, Subbammal S, Tripathy SP. Toxicity of pyrazinamide, administered once weekly in high dosage, in tuberculous patients. Bull World Health Organ. 1968;39:775–9. PubMed PMID: 5306313.
- (Pilot study of once weekly pyrazinamide [70 mg/kg] with isoniazid and streptomycin for 12 months in 19 patients with tuberculosis, found minor elevations in ALT and AST during therapy usually in first two weeks [peak ALT 63 U/L], but no patient developed clinically apparent hepatitis).
- Simpson AJ, Mirza AM, Martin JF, O'Brien TF Jr. Hepatitis secondary to pyrazinamide toxicity: accompaniments of transient hypolipoproteinemia, acanthocytosis, and changes in stomach and small bowel. South Med J. 1970;63:138–44. PubMed PMID: 5411920.
- (34 year old developed jaundice 6 months after starting pyrazinamide and streptomycin for tuberculosis [bilirubin 26.4 mg/dL, AST 318 U/L, Alk P normal, protime 22.9 sec, cholesterol 68 mg/dL and acanthocytosis], resolving slowly over next 3 months).
- Rossouw JE, Saunders SJ. Hepatic complications of antituberculous therapy. Q J Med. 1975;44:1–16. PubMed PMID: 50605.
- (Retrospective review identified 38 cases of hepatitis [~0.32%] due to antituberculosis therapy [Cape Town, SA], 16 due to PAS, 12 to PAS with isoniazid, 3 isoniazid alone, 1 each of others including ethambutol; rash and fever typical of PAS reactions, most within 90 days; 33 with jaundice).
- Hong Kong Tuberculosis Treatment services/British Medical Research Council. Adverse reactions to short-course regimens containing streptomycin, isoniazid, pyrazinamide and rifampicin in Hong Kong. Tubercle. 1976;57:81–95. PubMed PMID: 134476.
- (Summary of 3 clinical trials of antituberculosis therapy [isoniazid, rifampin and pyrazinamide] from Hong Kong; hepatotoxicity in 6-11% of subjects, jaundice in 0.7%, no deaths, pyrazinamide implicated most frequently).
- Girling DJ. The hepatic toxicity of antituberculosis regimens containing isoniazid, rifampicin and pyrazinamide. Tubercle. 1978;59:13–32. PubMed PMID: 345572.
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- (Among 145 patients with active tuberculosis treated with isoniazid, pyrazinamide and streptomycin, there was no correlation of acetylator phenotype and ALT elevations; postulate that rapid acetylators also rapidly metabolize and excrete monoacetylhydrazine the first product of acetylation and purported hepatotoxin).
- Singapore Tuberculosis Service/British Medical Research Council. Clinical trial of six-month and four-month regimens of chemotherapy in the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis. Am Rev Respir Dis. 1979;119:579–85. PubMed PMID: 375787.

(Among 397 patients with active tuberculosis treated with combination regimens, 11 [3%] developed hepatitis with jaundice, all in first 3 months, all recovered, all on rifampin, 10 on pyrazinamide and 2 on isoniazid).

- Addington WW. The side effects and interactions of antituberculosis drugs. Chest. 1979;76(6 Suppl):782–4. PubMed PMID: 510025.
- (Review of side effects of antituberculosis medications states that isoniazid, rifampin and pyrazinamide are major causes of hepatotoxicity, but ethambutol rarely causes liver injury).
- Zierski M, Bek E. Side-effects of drug regimens used in short-course chemotherapy for pulmonary tuberculosis. A controlled clinical study. Tubercle. 1980;61:41–9. PubMed PMID: 6989067.
- (Among 530 patients treated with 5 regimens for active tuberculosis and monitored monthly, 9% developed hepatic injury but usually without symptoms, ALT > 250 U/L in 6 [1.1%], bilirubin rise in 7 [1.3%]).
- Pretet S, Perdrizet S. Rev Fr Mal Respir. 1980;8:307–30. [Toxicity of pyrazinamide in antituberculous treatments]. French. PubMed PMID: 6454227.
- (Review of large trials worldwide of antituberculosis therapy for rate of adverse drug reactions; overall hepatotoxicity occurred in 2.2% of 4,025 subjects treated with pyrazinamide containing regimens vs 0.5% of 2,368 without).
- British Thoracic Association. A controlled trial of six month chemotherapy in pulmonary tuberculosis. First report: results during chemotherapy. Br J Dis Chest. 1981;75:141–53. PubMed PMID: 7023526.
- (Comparison of 3 regimens of therapy in 611 patients with active tuberculosis; 6 vs 9 months duration, with and without pyrazinamide; hepatitis occurred in 4% of patients with all 3 regimens and 8 patients [1.3%] had jaundice; hepatotoxicity occurred in 3% of men and 6% of women).
- Danan G, Pessayre D, Larrey D, Benhamou JP. Pyrazinamide fulminant hepatitis: an old hepatotoxin strikes again. Lancet. 1981;2:1056–7. PubMed PMID: 6118518.
- (37 year old man with active tuberculosis developed elevated ALT after 8 months of therapy; isoniazid was stopped and pyrazinamide continued, and patient developed acute liver failure [ALT 30 times ULN, Alk P twice normal] and died).
- Pilheu JA, De Salvo MC, Koch O. Liver alterations in antituberculosis regimens containing pyrazinamide. Chest. 1981;80:720–2. PubMed PMID: 7307595.
- (Prospective study of 59 alcoholic men with active tuberculosis treated with four drugs including isoniazid, rifampin, streptomycin and either pyrazinamide or ethambutol with monthly monitoring and liver biopsy before and after 2 months of therapy found no evidence of increased hepatotoxicity comparing pyrazinamide and ethambutol groups).
- Hong Kong Chest Service/British Medical Research Council. Controlled trial of 4 three-times-weekly regimens and a daily regimen all given for 6 months for pulmonary tuberculosis. Second report: the results up to 24 months. Tubercle. 1982;63:89–98. PubMed PMID: 6758252.
- (Among 833 patients with active tuberculosis randomized to one of 5 regimens, hepatotoxicity occurred in 2.7% and only 3 [0.4%] were jaundiced; most were able to finish therapy).
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- (Review of side effects of drugs for tuberculosis; isoniazid alone leads to hepatitis in 0.5% of patients increasing with age from 0.3% <35, 0.8% >55 years, higher rates when it is combined with other agents; pyrazinamide found to be hepatotoxic in high doses [40 mg/kg/day], but not with lower doses "So far there has been no report of a high incidence of hepatotoxicity with the modern pyrazinamide regimens studied").

Cohen CD, Sayed AR, Kirsch RE. Hepatic complications of antituberculosis therapy revisited. S Afr Med J. 1983;63:960–3. PubMed PMID: 6857425.

- (Among 5565 patients treated for tuberculosis in Cape Town SA, 17 [0.3%] developed hepatitis, rate similar to that when PAS was used. Among 28 cases seen, 13 attributed to isoniazid, 16 pyrazinamide and 8 rifampin, mostly in combination; 2 deaths).
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- (Controlled trial comparing pyrazinamide [n=52: <2 g/day] vs ethambutol [n=61] for first 2-3 months with isoniazid and rifampin for 9 months to treat active tuberculosis; hepatitis occurred in 5 on pyrazinamide and 2 on ethambutol, all in first month, 3 symptomatic, no deaths, most were >70 years of age).
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- (Pyrazinamide is similar in structure to isoniazid, initially found to be hepatotoxic, but then lower doses appeared to be safe and combination therapy allowed for shorter courses; among 34 patients treated, Alk P was 2-3 times ULN in 5 and ALT 2-3 times ULN in 4, all arising during first 30 days, all asymptomatic and resolving once pyrazinamide stopped).
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- (Analysis of 3 regimens for therapy of active tuberculosis in 908 patients; jaundice occurred in 6-8% of subjects on rifampin, but only 1% of subjects on nonrifampin regimens [isoniazid, pyrazinamide and streptomycin], but no mention of rates of death or clinically apparent hepatitis).
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(10 year old girl developed nausea and ALT elevations 2 weeks after starting isoniazid, rifampin, pyrazinamide and ethambutol, resolving with stopping all drugs, but severe recurrence with fever, rash and fatal acute liver failure 6 weeks after adding pyrazinamide back to rifampin, ethambutol and kanamycin).

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- (Two cases of acute liver failure attributed to isoniazid: 49 year old man on isoniazid for latent tuberculosis for 4 months developed jaundice [bilirubin 16.1 mg/dL, AST 2882 U/L]; and 60 year old woman developed jaundice 6 weeks after starting isoniazid, rifampin, and pyrazinamide for active tuberculosis [bilirubin 3.5 mg/dL, AST 548 U/L], both progressing to hepatic failure and undergoing successful liver transplantation).

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- (Among 70 AIDS patients with active tuberculosis receiving isoniazid, rifampin and pyrazinamide for 2 months, ALT or AST levels >200 U/L occurred in 8 [11%] with peak bilirubin values 0.6-2.9 mg/dL).
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- (59 year old woman developed abdominal pain and fever 1 month after starting isoniazid, rifampin, ethambutol and pyrazinamide [bilirubin 7.9 mg/dL, ALT 1260 U/L, 14% eosinophils], with positive rechallenge to pyrazinamide [ALT 3240 U/L], later tolerating ethambutol, rifampin and streptomycin).
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- (Among 27 cases of severe acute hepatitis seen in 1994 in Barcelona, 5 cases were due to antituberculosis medications, 1 woman and 4 men, ages 25 to 62 years, 2 with HBsAg, 1 with anti-HCV, arising after 11-62 days [peak bilirubin 8-41 mg/dL; ALT 450-2320 U/L, Alk P 1.5-2 times ULN], 3 died, one required liver transplant, one recovered spontaneously).
- de Souza AF. de Oliveira e Silva A, Baldi J, de Souza TN, Rizzo PM. Arq Gastroenterol. 1996;33:194–200. [Hepatic functional changes induced by the combined use of isoniazid, pyrazinamide and rifampicin in the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis]. Portuguese. PubMed PMID: 9302332.
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(Comparison of 86 patients with hepatitis due to antituberculosis therapy to 406 patients who tolerated therapy; risk factors for liver injury were older age, history of high alcohol intake [20% vs 5%], more extensive disease [14% vs 3.5%], slow acetylator status [83% vs 64%] and use of pyrazinamide [63% vs 25%]).

- al Sarraf KA, Michielsen PP, Hauben EI, Lefebure A, Ramon AM, Van Marck EA, Pelckmans PA. Hepatotoxicity after a short course of low-dose pyrazinamide. Acta Gastroenterol Belg. 1996;59:251–3. PubMed PMID: 9085628.
- (32 year old man with tuberculosis developed ALT elevations [50 times ULN] 10 weeks after starting isoniazid, resolving promptly on stopping, but rising again within 3 weeks of starting pyrazinamide and rifampin with worsening despite stopping both agents [peak bilirubin 1.2 mg/dL, ALT 1455 U/L, Alk P 107 U/L 10 weeks after withdrawal], resolving slowly and incompletely).
- Ormerod LP, Horsfield N. Frequency and type of reactions to antituberculosis drugs: observations in routine treatment. Tuber Lung Dis. 1996;77:37–42. PubMed PMID: 8733412.
- (Among 1317 patients treated for active tuberculosis, hepatitis was attributed to rifampin in 1.4%, pyrazinamide in 1.2% and isoniazid in 0.3%, but none to ethambutol or streptomycin).
- Ormerod LP, Skinner C, Wales J. Hepatotoxicity of antituberculosis drugs. Thorax. 1996;51:111–3. PubMed PMID: 8711637.
- (Review of the problem of hepatotoxicity of antituberculosis medications and recommendations on monitoring, with biochemical monitoring recommended only for patients with preexisting liver disease; in the UK between 1965-86 there were 243 reports of liver injury due to antituberculosis therapy and 45 fatalities).
- Døssing M, Wilcke JT, Askgaard DS, Nybo B. Liver injury during antituberculosis treatment: an 11-year study. Tuber Lung Dis. 1996;77:335–40. PubMed PMID: 8796249.
- (Retrospective chart review on 765 Danish patients treated for tuberculosis with 3 or 4 drugs for 6-9 months; 16% had AST elevations >2 times ULN usually during first month, but only 2% required modified regimen; 7 with jaundice, no fatalities; risk factors for hepatotoxicity were female sex, age and severe tuberculosis).
- Durand F, Jebrak G, Pessayre D, Fournier M, Bernuau J. Hepatotoxicity of antitubercular treatments. Rationale for monitoring liver status. Drug Saf. 1996;15:394–405. PubMed PMID: 8968694.
- (Review and recommendations from France regarding monitoring of serum enzymes during therapy of tuberculosis; isoniazid may have direct hepatotoxicity because of dose relatedness and usual absence of recurrence on rechallenge; rifampin is rare cause of liver injury, usually with short latency period; pyrazinamide is clearly hepatotoxic at higher doses which should be kept to a minimum and given for 2 months only).
- Knobel B, Buyanowsky G, Dan M, Zaidel L. Pyrazinamide-induced granulomatous hepatitis. J Clin Gastroenterol. 1997;24:264–6. PubMed PMID: 9252856.
- (52 year old developed fever 1 month after starting pyrazinamide and streptomycin for suspected tuberculosis [bilirubin 0.6 mg/dL, ALT 136 U/L, Alk P 752 U/L] without rash or eosinophilia, resolving on stopping, biopsy showing granulomas).
- Ridzon R, Meador J, Maxwell R, Higgins K, Weismuller P, Onorato IM. Asymptomatic hepatitis in persons who received alternative preventive therapy with pyrazinamide and ofloxacin. Clin Infect Dis. 1997;24:1264–5. PubMed PMID: 9195099.
- (Among 22 contacts of patients with multidrug resistant tuberculosis given pyrazinamide and ofloxacin, 12 developed ALT elevations after 2-25 weeks resolving in 3-5 weeks of stopping; two above 35 years in age both developed elevations [ALT 1026 and 2,990 U/L], one had eosinophilia [35%] and jaundice [bilirubin 4.1 mg/dL]).

Devoto FM, González C, Iannantuono R, Serra HA, González CD, Sáenz C. Risk factors for hepatotoxicity induced by antituberculosis drugs. Acta Physiol Pharmacol Ther Latinoam. 1997;47:197–202. PubMed PMID: 9504179.

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- (Prospective study of 240 patients treated for active tuberculosis with 3 drug regimen, found ALT elevations in 45% of 31 HBsAg carriers vs 26% of 209 controls; 1 death in a carrier, none in controls, but nevertheless concluded that HBsAg was not a risk factor for antituberculosis therapy associated liver injury).
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- (Among 134 patients with tuberculosis, 22 developed hepatotoxicity during therapy; risk factors were HCV infection [30% vs 11%] and HIV infection [27% vs 12%]; alpha interferon therapy of hepatitis C allowed for antituberculosis therapy without ALT elevations in some patients).
- Rose DN. Short-course prophylaxis against tuberculosis in HIV-infected persons. A decision and cost-effectiveness analysis. Ann Intern Med. 1998;129:779–86. PubMed PMID: 9841583.
- (Cost-effectiveness analysis of various regimens for treating latent tuberculosis in HIV infected persons using Markov model and various predictions of efficacy, safety, tuberculosis development and survival used rates of fatal hepatitis of 0.002% found prophylaxis to be "greatly" beneficial, including regimens using pyrazinamide and rifampin for 2 months).
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- Corrigan D, Paton J. Hepatic enzyme abnormalities in children on triple therapy for tuberculosis. Pediatr Pulmonol. 1999;27:37–42. PubMed PMID: 10023790.
- (Among 43 children prospectively monitored on rifampin, isoniazid and pyrazinamide therapy, 30% had abnormal liver tests, usually in first few weeks, 2 had symptoms, 1 jaundice; all patients continued or were restarted and finished therapy).
- Gordin F, Chaisson RE, Matts JP, Miller C, de Lourdes Garcia M, Hafner R, et al. Rifampin and pyrazinamide vs isoniazid for prevention of tuberculosis in HIV-infected persons: an international randomized trial. JAMA. 2000;283:1445–50. PubMed PMID: 10732934.
- (Controlled trial in 1583 patients with HIV infection and latent tuberculosis comparing rifampin/pyrazinamide [R/P] for 2 months to isoniazid [INH] for 12 months; active tuberculosis arose in 0.8% per year of R/P vs 1.1% of INH treated; ALT elevations >10 times ULN occurred in 1.3% of R/P vs 3.3% of INH treated; one "grade 4 hepatitis" in R/P versus 2 in INH treated).
- Girotto L, Gjonovich A, Preciso G. Minerva Anestesiol. 2000;66:249–51. [Fulminant liver failure caused by antitubercular drugs. Report of a clinical case]. Italian. PubMed PMID: 10832275.
- (26 year old man with pulmonary tuberculosis treated with isoniazid, rifampin, ethambutol and pyrazinamide, presented after 1 month with fever, rash and jaundice [bilirubin 8.5 mg/dL, ALT 2757 U/L], renal insufficiency and hepatic and multiorgan failure; died after 10 days; autopsy showed massive liver necrosis and acute renal tubular necrosis).

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- (Toxicity was common in transplant patients treated for active tuberculosis using first line agents, but switching to second line agents was successful in treating the tuberculosis and well tolerated).
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Fatal and severe hepatitis associated with rifampin and pyrazinamide for the treatment of latent tuberculosis infection—New York and Georgia, 2000. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2001;50:289–91. PubMed PMID: 11330495.
- (First alert: initial report of 2 cases of severe hepatitis during 2 month regimen of rifampin and pyrazinamide for latent tuberculosis; 53 year old man developed ALT elevation [1734 U/L] 33 days after starting regimen followed by jaundice [bilirubin 17.8 mg/dL] and fatal hepatic failure; 59 year old woman developed symptoms at end of therapy with bilirubin 11.4 mg/dL, ALT 1735 U/L, ANA 1:640, treated with prednisone and recovered; in both cases ALT monitoring did not prevent severe hepatitis).
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Update: Fatal and severe liver injuries associated with rifampin and pyrazinamide for latent tuberculosis infection, and revisions in American Thoracic Society/CDC recommendations—United States, 2001. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2001;50:733–5. PubMed PMID: 11787580.
- (Second alert: during a 6 month period, 21 cases of liver injury were reported to the CDC associated with 2 month regimens of rifampin-pyrazinamide; 5 died of liver failure, ages 32 to 68 years, onset in 2nd month; recommended use of 9 months of isoniazid as standard regimen and need for close monitoring if rifampin-pyrazinamide is used).
- de Maria A, Berardi M, Dignetti P, Ferrera L, Viassolo L, Canonica GW. Side effects of antituberculosis treatment. Thorax. 2001;56:983. PubMed PMID: 11758512.
- (Letter arguing against use of fixed dose combination pills of pyrazinamide with isoniazid and rifampin because of the risk of hepatotoxicity and inability to adjust relative doses).
- Burman WJ, Reves RR. Hepatotoxicity from rifampin plus pyrazinamide: lessons for policymakers and messages for care providers. Am J Respir Crit Care Med. 2001;164:1112–3. PubMed PMID: 11673194.
- (Editorial in response to MMWR report on 21 cases of severe hepatotoxicity and 5 deaths due to the combination of rifampin and pyrazinamide).
- Vu D, Macdonald L. Antitubercular drugs (isoniazid, rifampin and pyrazinamide): hepatobiliary reactions. CMAJ. 2001;165:942–3, 946-7. PubMed PMID: 11599338.
- (Review of 420 reports to the Canadian Monitoring Program of hepatotoxicity of antituberculosis drugs identified 258 due to isoniazid alone with 7 deaths; 27 to rifampin alone with 1 death; 110 to isoniazid and rifampin with 6 deaths; 25 related to pyrazinamide alone or in combination with 3 cases of death or hepatic failure; advises biochemical monitoring for patients above the age of 35).
- McCarthy M. US guidelines for treatment of latent tuberculosis revised. Lancet. 2001;358:816. PubMed PMID: 11564495.
- (Newsletter on the modification of the US guidelines on treatment of latent tuberculosis, recommending avoidance of rifampin/pyrazinamide regimens).
- Tahaoğlu K, Ataç G, Sevim T, Tärün T, Yazicioğlu O, Horzum G, Gemci I, et al. The management of anti-tuberculosis drug-induced hepatotoxicity. Int J Tuberc Lung Dis. 2001;5:65–9. PubMed PMID: 11263519.

(Description of 45 patients with hepatotoxicity from antituberculosis therapy, ages 15 to 76 years, ALT 42-897 U/L, bilirubin 0.2-7.0 mg/dL, arising in 6-102 days, with resolution in 4-58 days. No recurrence in patients with gradual reintroduction of regimen without pyrazinamide compared to 6 cases [24%] in those with abrupt reintroduction).

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- (Among 17 persons given pyrazinamide and levofloxacin for latent tuberculosis after contact with multidrug resistant tuberculosis, adverse reactions were common, 5 [29%] had ALT elevations [peak 80-504 U/L]; all recovered after stopping).
- Lee AM, Mennone JZ, Jones RC, Paul WS. Risk factors for hepatotoxicity associated with rifampin and pyrazinamide for the treatment of latent tuberculosis infection: experience from three public health tuberculosis clinics. Int J Tuberc Lung Dis. 2002;6:995–1000. PubMed PMID: 12475146.
- (Among 148 patients with latent tuberculosis treated with rifampin/pyrazinamide, 14 [9.4%] had ALT elevations >5 times ULN, 12 were symptomatic [8%]; risk factors were female sex and recent infection).
- Medinger A. Death associated with rifampin and pyrazinamide 2-month treatment of latent Mycobacterium tuberculosis. Chest. 2002;121:1710–2. PubMed PMID: 12006469.
- (68 year old man developed jaundice at end of 2 month course of rifampin and pyrazinamide for latent tuberculosis [bilirubin 19.2 mg/dL, ALT 1930 U/L, Alk P 207 U/L], with liver failure and death within 3 days of presentation: Case 2).
- Castro KG, Jereb JA, Koppaka VR, Cohn DL. Fatal liver injury associated with rifampin-pyrazinamide treatment of latent tuberculosis infection. Chest. 2003;123:967. PubMed PMID: 12628913.
- (Letter in response to Medinger [2002] on need to report cases of hepatotoxicity of antituberculosis therapy to the CDC).
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Update: Fatal and severe liver injuries associated with rifampin and pyrazinamide treatment for latent tuberculosis infection. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2002;51:998–9. PubMed PMID: 12455909.
- (Third alert: 40 cases of severe hepatotoxicity [8 fatal] associated with rifampin/pyrazinamide therapy of latent tuberculosis reported to CDC; issued revised guidelines cautioning against use of this regimen and only with no preexisting liver disease or alcohol use, with ALT monitoring and provision of drugs in two week increments).
- Jasmer RM, Saukkonen JJ, Blumberg HM, Daley CL, Bernardo J, Vittinghoff E, King MD, et al. Short-Course Rifampin and pyrazinamide for Tuberculosis Infection(SCRIPT) Study Investigators. Short-course rifampin and pyrazinamide compared with isoniazid for latent tuberculosis infection: a multicenter clinical trial. Ann Intern Med. 2002;137:640–7. PubMed PMID: 12379063.
- (Controlled trial of isoniazid [INH: 6 months] vs rifampin and pyrazinamide [RP: 2 months] in 589 patients with latent tuberculosis, similar completion rates [57% vs 61%]; ALT rose >5 times ULN in 1% on INH vs 7.7% on RP; none resulted in hospitalization or death; no mention of jaundice).
- Ohkawa K, Hashiguchi M, Ohno K, Kiuchi C, Takahashi S, Kondo S, Echizen H, et al. Risk factors for antituberculous chemotherapy-induced hepatotoxicity in Japanese pediatric patients. Clin Pharmacol Ther. 2002;72:220–6. PubMed PMID: 12189369.

(Retrospective analysis of 99 children who received therapy for tuberculosis, 8 developed hepatotoxicity; risk factors identified were young age and pyrazinamide exposure).

- Teleman MD, Chee CB, Earnest A, Wang YT. Hepatotoxicity of tuberculosis chemotherapy under general programme conditions in Singapore. Int J Tuberc Lung Dis. 2002;6:699–705. PubMed PMID: 12150482.
- (Retrospective analysis of 1036 patients treated for active tuberculosis in Singapore during 1998 found 55 cases of liver injury [5.3%], 37 symptomatic [3.6%], 18 jaundiced [1.8%], 3 died [0.3%: all on pyrazinamide]; 48 able to restart therapy; risk factors were age >60 years and baseline liver test abnormalities).
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); American Thoracic Society. Update: adverse event data and revised American Thoracic Society/CDC recommendations against the use of rifampin and pyrazinamide for treatment of latent tuberculosis infection—United States, 2003. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2003;52:735–9. PubMed PMID: 12904741.
- (Fourth alert and issuing of recommendations against use of rifampin/pyrazinamide for latent tuberculosis; with this regimen, estimated rate of ALT elevations >5 times ULN was 2.6%, hospitalization for hepatitis 0.3% and death 0.09%).
- American Thoracic Society; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Infectious Diseases Society of America. Treatment of tuberculosis. MMWR Recomm Rep. 2003;52(RR-11):1–77. PubMed PMID: 12836625.
- (Detailed recommendations on therapy of tuberculosis including drug regimens, side effects, monitoring and optimal approaches to follow up).
- Kunimoto D, Warman A, Beckon A, Doering D, Melenka L. Severe hepatotoxicity associated with rifampin-pyrazinamide preventative therapy requiring transplantation in an individual at low risk for hepatotoxicity. Clin Infect Dis. 2003;36:e158–61. PubMed PMID: 12802781.
- (37 year old man had AST elevations at end of 2 month course of rifampin/pyrazinamide, with levels rising thereafter to AST 2409 U/L and bilirubin 7.8 mg/dL and need for liver transplant 2 months later).
- Nagayama N, Masuda K, Baba M, Tamura A, Nagai H, Akagawa S, Kawabe Y, et al. Kekkaku. 2003;78:339–46. [Secular increase in the incidence rate of drug-induced hepatitis due to anti-tuberculosis chemotherapy including isoniazid and rifampicin]. Japanese. PubMed PMID: 12739393.
- (In Japan there was an apparent increase in rate of ALT elevations reported during isoniazid and rifampin therapy between the years 1980-83 [9%] and 1998-2000 [27%]).
- Yee D, Valiquette C, Pelletier M, Parisien I, Rocher I, Menzies D. Incidence of serious side effects from first-line antituberculosis drugs among patients treated for active tuberculosis. Am J Respir Crit Care Med. 2003;167:1472–7. PubMed PMID: 12569078.
- (Among 408 adult patients treated for tuberculosis, 37 [9%] had 46 serious adverse events including 12 [3%] instances of hepatitis [ALT >5 times ULN]; risk factors were age [hazard ratio 4.8-7.7], female sex [2.2] and Asian birthplace [2.2]; hepatitis arose in 2% on pyrazinamide and 1% on isoniazid).
- Mohan A, Sharma SK. Side effects of antituberculosis drugs. Am J Respir Crit Care Med. 2004;169:882–3. PubMed PMID: 15044223.
- (Letter in response to Yee [2003] requesting further information on doses and clinical features; reply by authors stating that high rate of hepatotoxicity in comparison to reports from India was not due to higher doses of pyrazinamide, but may have been partially due to patient age and diverse ethnic background of patients).
- McNeill L, Allen M, Estrada C, Cook P. Pyrazinamide and rifampin vs isoniazid for the treatment of latent tuberculosis: improved completion rates but more hepatotoxicity. Chest. 2003;123:102–6. PubMed PMID: 12527609.

(Between 1999-2002, 110 patients were treated with pyrazinamide/rifampin [P/R] for 2 months and 114 with isoniazid [INH] for 6 months for latent tuberculosis; completion rates were higher [71% vs 59%] as was hepatotoxicity [13% vs 4%] with PR than INH, and 2 patients had clinically apparent hepatitis [ALT 45-67 times ULN at 4 weeks] but both survived; after intensive monitoring, no further severe cases on P/R).

- Stout JE, Engemann JJ, Cheng AC, Fortenberry ER, Hamilton CD. Safety of 2 months of rifampin and pyrazinamide for treatment of latent tuberculosis. Am J Respir Crit Care Med. 2003;167:824–7. PubMed PMID: 12446275.
- (Among 114 patients receiving 2 month course of rifampin/pyrazinamide, 67% completed therapy and 6 had hepatitis [5.3%] but all resolved; no hospitalizations or death).
- Fernández-Villar A, Sopeña B, Fernández-Villar J, Vázquez-Gallardo R, Ulloa F, Leiro V, Mosteiro M, et al. The influence of risk factors on the severity of anti-tuberculosis drug-induced hepatotoxicity. Int J Tuberc Lung Dis. 2004;8:1499–505. PubMed PMID: 15636498.
- (Among 471 patients receiving antituberculosis therapy, 56 [12%] developed ALT elevations >3 times ULN, 16 [3.4%] and symptoms and 5 [1%] were jaundiced; no deaths. Rates of hepatotoxicity higher in patients with risk factors than without [18.2% vs 5.6%]).
- Jasmer RM, Snyder DC, Saukkonen JJ, Hopewell PC, Bernardo J, King MD, Kawamura LM, et al. Short-course rifampin and pyrazinamide compared with isoniazid for latent tuberculosis infection: a cost-effective analysis based on a multicenter clinical trial. Clin Infect Dis. 2004;38:363–9. PubMed PMID: 14727206.
- (Cost effectiveness analysis of two regimens of therapy for latent tuberculosis, suggesting that isoniazid alone for 9 months is less expensive than a short course of rifampin and pyrazinamide and has similar long term efficacy [both regimens increased life expectancy by 1.2 years]).
- Ijaz K, McElroy PD, Navin TR. Short-course rifampin and pyrazinamide compared with isoniazid for latent tuberculosis infection: a cost-effectiveness analysis based on a multicenter clinical trial. Clin Infect Dis. 2004;39:289. PubMed PMID: 15307044.
- (Letter in response to Jasmer [2004], stressing the recommendation that rifampin and pyrazinamide not be used to treat latent tuberculosis, a 9 month course of isoniazid being safer and more cost effective).
- Gordin FM, Cohn DL, Matts JP, Chaisson RE, O'Brien RJ; Terry Beirn Community Programs for Clinical Research on AIDS. Adult AIDS Clinical Trials Group; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Hepatotoxicity of rifampin and pyrazinamide in the treatment of latent tuberculosis infection in HIV-infected persons: is it different than in HIV-uninfected persons? Clin Infect Dis. 2004;39:561–5. PubMed PMID: 15356822.
- (Detailed reanalysis of results of randomized controlled trial comparing 12 months of isoniazid [INH] to 2 months of rifampin/pyrazinamide [R/P] for latent tuberculosis in HIV infected patients; comparing INH to RP recipients, bilirubin >2.5 mg/dL occurred in 0.6% vs 1.8% and AST >250 U/L in 1.6% vs 2.1%, but no hospitalizations or deaths due to hepatotoxicity occurred in the trial; older age was only risk factor identified).
- van Hest R, Baars H, Kik S, van Gerven P, Trompenaars MC, Kalisvaart N, Keizer S, et al. Hepatotoxicity of rifampin-pyrazinamide and isoniazid preventive therapy and tuberculosis treatment. Clin Infect Dis. 2004;39:488–96. PubMed PMID: 15356811.
- (Retrospective analysis of patients starting preventive antituberculosis therapy; ALT elevations above 5 times ULN occurred in 8.4% of those receiving 2 months of rifampin/pyrazinamide vs 3.4% of those receiving 6 months of isoniazid).
- Marra F, Cox VC, FitzGerald JM, Moadebi S, Elwood RK. Successful treatment of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis following drug-induced hepatic necrosis requiring liver transplant. Int J Tuberc Lung Dis. 2004;8:905–9. PubMed PMID: 15260286.

(Patient with tuberculous lymphadenitis was treated with isoniazid, rifampin, ethambutol and pyrazinamide and was switched to ciprofloxacin with pyrazinamide and ethambutol when resistance testing was done; four days later she developed fever, rash and fatigue [bilirubin normal, ALT 285 U/L, Alk P normal], but then worsened [bilirubin 15.2 mg/dL, ALT 1165 U/L, Alk P 141 U/L], ultimately requiring liver transplant; she was later treated successfully with levofloxacin, amikacin and streptomycin).

- Campos-Franco J, Gonzalez-Quintela A, Alende-Sixto MR. Isoniazid-induced hyperacute liver failure in a young patient receiving carbamazepine. Eur J Intern Med. 2004;15:396–7. PubMed PMID: 15522577.
- (16 year old girl on long term carbamazepine and clobazam with ileocecal tuberculosis developed hepatitis and drowsiness with tremor, 5 days after starting isoniazid, rifampin and pyrazinamide [bilirubin 3.2 mg/dL, ALT 658 U/L, prothrombin index 12%], resolving spontaneously despite continuing anticonvulsants and later tolerating reintroduction of rifampin and pyrazinamide).
- Sharma SK. Antituberculosis drugs and hepatotoxicity. Infect Genet Evol. 2004;4:167–70. PubMed PMID: 15157635.
- (Review of hepatotoxicity of isoniazid, rifampin and pyrazinamide with focus on role of acetylator status).
- Kandula NR, Dworkin MS, Carroll MR, Lauderdale DS. Tuberculosis prevention in Mexican immigrants: limitations of short-course therapy. Am J Prev Med. 2004;26:163–6. PubMed PMID: 14751331.
- (Among 34 immigrants and contacts of a patient with multidrug resistant tuberculosis treated with rifampin/pyrazinamide, 1 of 11 children [9%] and 4 of 23 adults [17%] developed hepatotoxicity [ALT 165-547 U/L] after 10-53 days; all recovered and were able to finish 4 months of rifampin; points out impracticality of biochemical monitoring in immigrant population).
- McElroy PD, Ijaz K, Lambert LA, Jereb JA, Iademarco MF, Castro KG, Navin TR. National survey to measure rates of liver injury, hospitalization, and death associated with rifampin and pyrazinamide for latent tuberculosis infection. Clin Infect Dis. 2005;41:1125–33. PubMed PMID: 16163632.
- (Survey of 110 health care programs using the 2 month rifampin/pyrazinamide regimen for latent tuberculosis in 8087 patients between 2000-2; ALT elevations >5 times ULN occurred in 2.4% and hepatitis in 1.9% with 23 hospitalizations and 7 deaths [0.1%] due to acute liver injury; higher than historical rates with isoniazid).
- Cook PP. Rifampin and pyrazinamide for treatment of latent tuberculosis infection. Clin Infect Dis. 2006;42:892–author reply 892-3. PubMed PMID: 16477576.
- (Letter in response to McElroy [2005] questioning use of ALT for AST values used to define hepatotoxicity rates; reply by authors suggesting use of "AT" to indicate both enzymes).
- Younossian AB, Rochat T, Ketterer JP, Wacker J, Janssens JP. High hepatotoxicity of pyrazinamide and ethambutol for treatment of latent tuberculosis. Eur Respir J. 2005;26:462–4. PubMed PMID: 16135729.
- (Among 12 persons treated with pyrazinamide and ethambutol for latent tuberculosis and contact with a patient with multidrug resistant disease, 7 developed liver injury [ALT 82-1338 U/L], after 87-247 days, 3 with symptoms, no mention of bilirubin levels).
- Potolidis E, Mantadakis E, Zeniodi MH, Samonis G. Rifampin plus pyrazinamide-induced hepatitis requiring hospitalization in a 30-y-old male with latent tuberculosis. Scand J Infect Dis. 2005;37:155–7. PubMed PMID: 15773037.
- (30 year old man developed nausea and dehydration 6 weeks after starting rifampin and pyrazinamide for latent tuberculosis [bilirubin normal, ALT "in the range of 600 to 2000" U/L], resolving within 3 weeks of stopping).
- Lee BH, Koh WJ, Choi MS, Suh GY, Chung MP, Kim H, Kwon OJ. Inactive hepatitis B surface antigen carrier state and hepatotoxicity during antituberculosis chemotherapy. Chest. 2005;127:1304–11. PubMed PMID: 15821209.

(Retrospective case control study of 110 HBsAg carriers and 97 controls from Korea who received 3-4 drug antituberculosis therapy; any ALT elevations occurred in 34% of carriers vs 20% of controls and were >3 times ULN in 8% vs 4%; no risk factors identified, most tolerated reintroduction of therapy without pyrazinamide).

- Lobato MN, Reves RR, Jasmer RM, Grabau JC, Bock NN, Shang N. 2RZ Study Group. Adverse events and treatment completion for latent tuberculosis in jail inmates and homeless persons. Chest. 2005;127:1296–303. PubMed PMID: 15821208.
- (Analysis of 2 month course of rifampin and pyrazinamide in jail and homeless populations found ALT elevations >5 times ULN in 6% of patients, one of whom died of acute liver failure, risk factors were older age and baseline ALT levels).
- Idilman R, Ersoz S, Coban S, Kumbasar O, Bozkaya H. Antituberculous therapy-induced fulminant hepatic failure: successful treatment with liver transplantation and nonstandard antituberculous therapy. Liver Transpl. 2006;12:1427–30. PubMed PMID: 16933231.
- (19 year old woman with peritoneal tuberculosis developed jaundice 4 days after starting isoniazid, rifampin, ethambutol and pyrazinamide [bilirubin 10.5 mg/dL, ALT 1332 U/L, protime 71 sec], undergoing living donor liver transplantation within 2 days and afterwards treated with streptomycin, ethambutol and cycloserine with no recurrence).
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- (Review of incidence, causes, risk factors and management of hepatotoxicity of antituberculosis medications).
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- (Between 2004-5, 103 HIV-positive and 94 HIV-negative patients were treated for tuberculosis; subclinical hepatotoxicity occurred in 17% and clinical apparent liver injury with jaundice in 4.1%; risk factors were HIV-positivity and other drug intake, but not age, sex, hepatitis or body mass index).
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- (175 patients with hepatic injury [ALT or AST >5 times ULN or symptoms with ALT elevations] attributed to antituberculosis medications were randomized to 3 different approaches to restarting therapy after initial episode resolved; 11% had recurrence with rates similar for all three regimens [starting agents at full doses or gradual escalation], onset in 5-35 days, none fatal and few with jaundice).

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- (Worldwide pharmacovigilance database contained 9036 hepatic adverse drug reactions in children, 2 antituberculosis agents were among the top 40 cases, including isoniazid [24th, 47 cases], and rifampin [35th, 37 cases]).
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- (Among 30 children with suspected drug induced liver injury, 3 were attributed to isoniazid).
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- (Review of hepatotoxicity of antituberculosis medications).
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- (7 year old boy developed jaundice and mental confusion 2 months after starting therapy with isoniazid, pyrazinamide, rifampin, ethambutol, fluconazole and ceftriaxone [bilirubin 6.5 mg/dL, ALT 396 U/L, GGT 207 U/L, INR 3.6], resolving spontaneously after stopping the regimen and switching to amikacin, cycloserine, ethambutol, levofloxacin and linezolid).
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- (10 year old girl developed jaundice 40 days after starting isoniazid, pyrazinamide and rifampin [bilirubin 13 mg/dL, ALT 37 times ULN, INR 8.5], developing progressive hepatic failure and undergoing successful liver transplantation 2 days after admission).
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- (Metaanalysis of studies of genetic polymorphisms and hepatotoxicity of drugs for tuberculosis identified 38 publications including 2225 patients and 4906 controls; modest association was found between slow NAT2 acetylation genotypes and glutathione-S-transferase genotypes and hepatotoxicity, but largely in Asian populations).
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- (Systematic review of the Chinese literature on drug induced liver injury from 1994 to 2011 identified 1119 reports on 21,789 patients; antituberculosis agents were the most commonly implicated drugs [31%]).
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- (Among 321 patients with tuberculosis treated at a single referral hospital during a 5 year period, 7 [2%] developed liver injury with a mixed pattern of enzyme elevations, onset averaging 28 days and resulting in fatality in one).
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- (In a retrospective analysis of potential risk factors for liver injury with jaundice due to antituberculosis agents, the level of activity of daily living and concurrent cardiac disease was found to be most strongly associated with occurrence of liver injury).

Miyazawa N, Horita N, Tomaru K, Tsukahara T, Takahashi R, Sasaki M, Ishigatsubo Y. Kekkaku. 2013;88:297–300. [Comparison of drug-induced hepatitis occurring in elderly and younger patients during antituberculosis treatment with a regimen including pyrazinamide]. PubMed PMID: 23672170.

- (Among 36 Japanese patients with tuberculosis treated with isoniazid, pyrazinamide, rifampin and ethambutol, liver injury occurred in 12.5% over 80 and 14% less than 80 years of age).
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- (Among 296 patients being treated for tuberculosis, 17% developed ALT elevations during therapy and evidence of liver injury was associated with homozygous null mutations at both glutathione S transferase M1 and T1 gene loci).
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- (Review of the frequency, pathogenesis and management of hepatotoxicity of antituberculosis therapy in patients with preexisting cirrhosis, who appear to have an increased risk of liver injury from these agents as well as an increased risk of severe outcomes).
- Shin HJ, Lee HS, Kim YI, Lim SC, Jung JP, Ko YC, Kwon YS. Hepatotoxicity of anti-tuberculosis chemotherapy in patients with liver cirrhosis. Int J Tuberc Lung Dis. 2014;18:347–51. PubMed PMID: 24670574.
- (Among 50 patients with cirrhosis and 147 controls without cirrhosis who had active tuberculosis and were treated with isoniazid, rifampin ethambutol and pyrazinamide, abnormal liver tests arose in 72% of cirrhotics vs 46% of controls, and predefined "hepatotoxicity" arose in 8% vs 3%, but no patient required hospitalization or died).
- Huang YS. Recent progress in genetic variation and risk of antituberculosis drug-induced liver injury. J Chin Med Assoc. 2014;77:169–73. PubMed PMID: 24593909.
- (Critical review of studies on genetic variations associated with antituberculosis drug induced liver injury focusing on N-acetyltransferase (NAT), CYP 2E1, glutathione S transferase and manganese superoxide dismutase, the strongest association being with NAT and slow acetylator status).
- Satyaraddi A, Velpandian T, Sharma SK, Vishnubhatla S, Sharma A, Sirohiwal A, Makharia GK, et al. Correlation of plasma anti-tuberculosis drug levels with subsequent development of hepatotoxicity. Int J Tuberc Lung Dis. 2014;18:188–95. i-iii. PubMed PMID: 24429311.
- (Among 110 patients being treated for tuberculosis, 15 developed evidence of liver injury [enzyme or bilirubin elevations or symptoms]; plasma free rifampin, but not isoniazid or pyrazinamide, levels were higher in patients who developed liver injury than in those who did not).

Xiang Y, Ma L, Wu W, Liu W, Liu Y, Zhu X, Wang Q, et al. The incidence of liver injury in Uyghur patients treated for TB in Xinjiang Uyghur autonomous region, China, and its association with hepatic enzyme polymorphisms nat2, cyp2e1, gstm1 and gstt1. PLoS One. 2014;9:e85905. PubMed PMID: 24465778.

- (Among 2244 patients treated for tuberculosis, 89 [4%] had aminotransferase elevations above 2 times and 0.4% above 5 times ULN after 2 months of treatment; evidence of liver injury was more common in persons with NAT2*5*CT genotype, slow acetylator phenotype, but not with CYP 2E1 polymorphisms).
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- (Systematic review of literature of drug induced liver injury in Latin American countries published from 1996 to 2012 identified 176 cases, 13 [7%] due to antituberculosis agents including 6 to isoniazid, 1 to pyrazinamide, 1 to rifampin and 5 to combinations).
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CDC. Available at: https://www.cdc.gov/tb/

(CDC website with up-to-date recommendations on therapy of tuberculosis).