Peginterferon/Ribavirin-Experienced, Genotype 3 Patients Without Cirrhosis

Recommended and alternative regimens listed by evidence level and alphabetically for:

**Peginterferon/Ribavirin-Experienced, Genotype 3 Patients Without Cirrhosis**

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\(^a\) Baseline RAS testing for Y93H is recommended. If the Y93H substitution is identified, an alternative regimen should be used, or weight-based ribavirin should be added.

\(^b\) Dosing is 3 coformulated tablets (glecaprevir [100 mg]/pibrentasvir [40 mg]) taken once daily. Please refer to the prescribing information.

**Recommended Regimen**

**Sofosbuvir/Velpatasvir**

The phase 3 ASTRAL-3 study evaluated the daily fixed-dose combination of sofosbuvir (400 mg)/velpatasvir (100 mg) for 12 weeks (without ribavirin) in 277 genotype 3-infected patients, including 71 with prior treatment experience and 80 with compensated cirrhosis (Foster, 2015\(^a\)). Despite a high combined SVR12 of 95% (264/277), both prior treatment (90% SVR12) and compensated cirrhosis (91% SVR12) had a moderate negative impact on treatment response. The addition of ribavirin appeared to increase SVR12 rate in a phase 2 study that included treatment-experienced, genotype 3 patients treated for 12 weeks with sofosbuvir (400 mg) plus 25 mg or 100 mg of velpatasvir, with or without ribavirin (Pianko, 2015).

The phase 3 POLARIS-2 study evaluated 12 weeks of sofosbuvir/velpatasvir versus 8 weeks of sofosbuvir/velpatasvir/voxilaprevir in patients (any genotype) who were either treatment naive or had a previous peginterferon/ribavirin treatment failure. Eighty-nine genotype 3 patients (all without cirrhosis) received the sofosbuvir/velpatasvir regimen and 97% (86/89) achieved SVR12 (Jacobson, 2017). There were no virologic failures. These findings confirm the efficacy of this 12-week regimen in noncirrhotic genotype 3 patients.

Baseline NS5A substitutions in genotype 3 infection impact DAA treatment response, with the Y93H substitution having the greatest effect. In the ALLY-3 study, the Y93H substitution was detected at baseline in 9% (13/147) of participants.
Pending additional data, baseline NSSA RAS testing is recommended in all treatment-experienced, genotype 3 patients without cirrhosis for whom sofosbuvir/velpatasvir is being considered. If the Y93H substitution is identified, an alternative regimen should be used, or weight-based ribavirin should be added.

**Alternative Regimens**

**Glecaprevir/Pibrentasvir**

The SURVEYOR-II, part 3 trial evaluated the safety and efficacy of a 12-week or 16-week course of the daily fixed-dose combination of glecaprevir (300 mg)/pibrentasvir (120 mg) administered as three 100 mg/40 mg fixed-dose combination pills in treatment-naive or -experienced (standard or peginterferon ± ribavirin, or sofosbuvir plus ribavirin ± peginterferon), genotype 3 patients without cirrhosis or with compensated cirrhosis. Among the 44 treatment-experienced patients without cirrhosis, the SVR12 rates were 91% (20/22) and 96% (21/22) for 12 weeks and 16 weeks, respectively. The 3 patients who experienced treatment failure had baseline RAS mutations. One patient in the 12-week study arm had an A30K RAS at baseline and a treatment-emergent Y93H RAS at failure resulting in the A30K+Y93H double RAS, which confers 69-fold resistance to glecaprevir/pibrentasvir. This was also true in the single relapse in the 16-week study arm. The second patient with relapse in the 12-week arm had a baseline Y93H RAS, which persisted at the time of failure. The Y93H substitution does not confer high-fold resistance to this regimen (Wyles, 2018).

Based on these data, the appropriate length of therapy is unclear for genotype 3, peginterferon/ribavirin-experienced patients. Until further data are available, a 16-week duration of treatment is recommended as an alternative option, especially if a baseline A30K substitution is present.

**Sofosbuvir/Velpatasvir/Voxilaprevir**

The efficacy of the daily fixed-dose combination of sofosbuvir (400 mg)/velpatasvir (100 mg)/voxilaprevir (100 mg) in genotype 3 patients is supported by the phase 3 POLARIS trials, which investigated 8 weeks of sofosbuvir/velpatasvir/voxilaprevir in DAA-naive patients and 12 weeks in DAA-experienced participants. The 8-week regimen achieved noninferiority compared to a 12-week sofosbuvir/velpatasvir regimen in the POLARIS-3 study, which included 35 interferon-experienced, cirrhotic patients with genotype 3 (Jacobson, 2017). Thus, this regimen is recommended as an alternative option for patients with genotype 3 who have evidence of the Y93H RAS at baseline.

In the ASTRAL-3 study, which investigated 12 weeks of sofosbuvir/velpatasvir, the Y93H substitution was detected in 9% (25/274) of patients with an SVR12 of 84% (21/25) (Foster, 2015a). Due to lack of an apparent adverse impact of Y93H in the context of triple-class drug therapy in the POLARIS-1 and -4 studies and the difficult-to-treat nature of treatment-experienced, genotype 3 patients, we recommend 12 weeks of sofosbuvir/velpatasvir/voxilaprevir to optimize SVR12 (Sarrazin, 2018).

**Last update:** November 6, 2019

**Related References**


