

T. vaginalis Tx Compared in HIV-Positive Women

BY MELINDA TANZOLA

ATLANTA — Single-dose oral metronidazole—one of two recommended first-line treatment regimens for *Trichomonas vaginalis*—is less effective than a second-line, 7-day regimen of oral metronidazole in HIV-positive women, results from a randomized trial suggest.

Among 255 patients evaluated 6-12 days after treatment, those who received

metronidazole 500 mg twice daily for 7 days were about half as likely as those receiving a single 2-g dose of metronidazole to have recurrent *T. vaginalis* infections (9% vs. 17%), according to the findings of a phase IV trial of medications that were already approved for this intended use.

The 7-day regimen also was associated with a lower rate of *T. vaginalis* positivity among 152 women who were as-

essed 3 months after treatment, with rates of 11% and 24%, respectively, said Dr. Patricia Kissinger, professor of epidemiology at Tulane University in New Orleans.

There was no difference in adherence between groups, with almost all patients (96%) reporting having taken all of their metronidazole as instructed, and there were no significant differences in adverse event rates between the two arms.

Based on these findings, metronidazole administered as a single 2-g dose should no longer be recommended for the treatment of *T. vaginalis* among HIV-positive women, Dr. Kissinger said at a conference on STD prevention sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The National Institutes of Health funded the study. Dr. Kissinger reported having no relevant conflicts of interest. ■



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*According to the JNC 7, Stage-1 hypertension is defined as 140-159 mmHg SBP or 90-99 mmHg DBP. Stage-2 hypertension is ≥ 160 mmHg SBP or ≥ 100 mmHg DBP.³

†Standard deviation was 11.9/7.6 mmHg, TWYNSTA 40/5 mg; 13.2/7.9 mmHg, TWYNSTA 40/10 mg; 12.7/8.5 mmHg, TWYNSTA 80/5 mg; 14.2/7.9 mmHg, TWYNSTA 80/10 mg; 16.7/9.4 mmHg, placebo.²

ARB: Angiotensin receptor blocker. CCB: Calcium channel blocker. DBP: Diastolic blood pressure. SBP: Systolic blood pressure. JNC 7: The Seventh Report of the Joint National Committee on Prevention, Detection, Evaluation, and Treatment of High Blood Pressure.

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