

Antiviral Drugs for Viral Pneumonia

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In their article in the MAY issue of this journal:

Adenovirus-associated Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS): Need for a Protocol-based Approach. Rishik Vashisht, Saeid Mirzai, Christine Koval, Abhijit Duggal. *Indian J Crit Care Med* 2020; 24(5):367–368.

Have described a small case series of adenovirus pneumonia managed with acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) protocol. However, there has been no mention of the use of antivirals.

Though large-scale trials are lacking for most viral pneumonias, there has been successful use of antivirals for different viruses described in the literature. In fact for adenovirus, cidofovir is recommended and there was a recent publication in NEJM¹ regarding the same of successful use.

With the increased diagnosis of viral pneumonias with the availability of PCR, viral pneumonias are supposed to cause 20% of CAP is coming to the ICU.

Hence, it would be worthwhile to be aware of the antivirals available and worth trying for different pneumonias as some lives may be saved- “A stitch in time saves nine” (Table 1).

Table 1: Antiviral drugs for viral pneumonias^{2,3}

Virus	Antiviral drug
RSV	Ribavirin
MPV	
Enterovirus	
Rhinovirus	
Hantavirus	
Parainfluenza	
Measles	
Adenovirus	Cidofovir, Foscarnet
HSV, varicella zoster	Acyclovir, Foscarnet
CMV	Ganciclovir, Foscarnet, Valganciclovir
Influenza	Oseltamivir, other NA Inhibitors, Amantadine, Baloxavir
Coronavirus	Remdesivir, Nirmatrelvir-ritonavir, Molnupiravir

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