Abacavir Hypersensitivity Testing and Initial Patient Management Algorithm

Before initiating or reinitiating abacavir therapy, screen patients for HLA-B*5701 allele to decrease the risk of hypersensitivity reaction

Order HLA57 / HLA-B 5701 Genotype, Abacavir Hypersensitivity, Blood

HLA-B*5701 allele

POSITIVE
Do not initiate abacavir therapy

NEGATIVE
Initiate abacavir therapy

Monitor patient every 2 weeks for the first 6 weeks of treatment for symptoms of hypersensitivity reaction that may include:
- Fever
- Nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhea
- Malaise/fatigue
- Headache
- Myalgia/arthralgia
- Skin rash
- Shortness of breath, cough, pharyngitis

Patient has ≥2 symptoms within 6 weeks of starting abacavir
Stop abacavir therapy and provide supportive therapy as needed

Patient has ≤1 symptom within 6 weeks of starting abacavir
Continue abacavir and monitor progress

1. Do not initiate abacavir therapy unless the potential benefits outweigh the risks of giving it