

Immunosuppressive Therapy or Chemotherapy–Induced Hepatitis B Virus Reactivation

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Abstract : Immunosuppressive therapy or chemotherapy–induced hepatitis B virus (HBV) reactivation sometimes causes severe hepatitis. Physicians who perform these therapies must therefore be aware of the characteristics of HBV reactivation. HBV reactivation also occurs in patients with negative serum markers for hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg). Therefore, hepatitis B core antibody in addition to HBsAg must be tested in all patients who are indicated to receive the above therapies. When any markers for HBV are positive, then the physician should consult with a liver disease specialist and consider alternative treatment with nucleoside analogues.

Key words : Immunosuppressive therapy, Chemotherapy, Hepatitis B virus reactivation, Nucleoside analogues