entecavir (en-tek-aver)
Baraclude

**Classification**
Therapeutic: antivirals
Pharmacologic: nucleoside analogues

**Pregnancy Category C**

**Indications**
Chronic hepatitis B infection with evidence of active disease.

**Action**
Phosphorylated intracellularly to active form which acts as an analogue of guanosine, interfering with viral DNA synthesis.

**Therapeutic Effects:**
Decreased hepatic damage due to chronic hepatitis B infection.

**Pharmacokinetics**
**Absorption:** Well absorbed following oral administration.
**Distribution:** Extensive tissue distribution.
**Metabolism and Excretion:** 62–73% excreted unchanged by kidneys.
**Half-life:** Plasma—128–149 hr; intracellular—15 hr.

**Drug Interactions**
Concurrent use of drugs which may impair renal function may ↑ blood levels and risk of toxicity.

**Route/Dosage**
**PO (Adults and Children ≥16 yr):**
0.5 mg once daily; history of lamivudine resistance—1 mg once daily.

**Renal Impairment**
**PO (Adults and Children ≥16 yr):**
CCr 30–50 mL/min—0.25 mg once daily; history of lamivudine resistance—0.5 mg once daily; CCr 10–30 mL/min—0.15 mg once daily; history of lamivudine resistance—0.3 mg once daily; CCr <10 mL/min—0.05 mg once daily; history of lamivudine resistance—0.1 mg once daily.

**NURSING IMPLICATIONS**
**Assessment**
- Monitor signs of hepatitis (nausea, fatigue, anorexia, pruritus) during and for several months following discontinuation of therapy. Exacerbations may occur when therapy is discontinued.
- May cause lactic acidosis and severe hepatomegaly with steatosis. Monitor for signs (↑ serum lactate levels, elevated liver enzymes, liver enlargement on palpation). Suspend therapy if clinical or laboratory signs occur.
- Lab Test Considerations: Monitor liver function closely during and for several months following discontinuation of therapy. May cause ↑ AST, ALT, bilirubin, amylase, lipase, creatinine, and serum glucose. May cause ↓ serum albumin.

**Potential Nursing Diagnoses**
- Risk for infection
- Noncompliance

**Implementation**
- PO: administer on empty stomach at least 2 hr before or after a meal. Oral solution ready to use and should not be diluted or mixed with water or any other liq.
uid. Hold spoon in a vertical position and fill gradually to mark corresponding to the prescribed dose. Rinse dosing spoon with water after each daily dose. Store in outer carton at room temperature. After opening, solution can be used until expiration date on bottle.

**Patient/Family Teaching**

- Instruct patient to read the Patient Information with each refill and to take entecavir as directed. Take missed doses as soon as possible unless almost time for next dose. Do not take two or more doses to make up for missed doses. Do not double doses. Emphasize the importance of compliance with full course of therapy, not taking more than the prescribed amount, and not discontinuing without consulting health care professional. Inform patient that hepatitis exacerbation may occur upon discontinuation of therapy. Caution patient not to share medication with others.

- Inform patient that entecavir does not cure HBV disease, but may lower the amount of HBV in the body, lower the ability of HBV to multiply and infect new liver cells, and may improve the condition of the liver. Entecavir does not reduce the risk of transmission of HBV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Caution patient to use a condom during sexual contact and avoid sharing needles or donating blood to prevent spreading HBV to others.

- Advise patient to notify health care professional promptly if signs of lactic acidosis (weakness or tiredness; unusual muscle pain; trouble breathing; stomach pain with nausea and vomiting; feeling cold, especially in arms or legs, disorientation, fast or irregular heartbeat) or hepatotoxicity (jaundice, dark urine, light-colored bowel movements, anorexia, nausea, lower stomach pain) occur.

- May cause dizziness. Caution patient to avoid driving or other activities requiring alertness until response to medication is known.

- Instruct patient to notify health care professional of all Rx or OTC medications, vitamins, or herbal products being taken and to consult with health care professional before taking other medications.

- Discuss the possibility of hair loss with patient. Explore methods of coping.

- Advise patient to notify health care professional of pregnancy if planned or suspected or if breast feeding.

- Emphasize the importance of regular follow-up exams and blood tests to determine progress and monitor for side effects.

**Evaluation/Desired Outcomes**

- Decreased hepatic damage due to chronic hepatitis B infection. 

Why was this drug prescribed for your patient?