COMMUNICATION

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PLEASE REVIEW

MONKEYPOX

PharmPix Clinical Department

MONKEYPOX:

Remember that medical literature is dynamic and is continuously changing as new scientific knowledge is developed. We exhort the frequent revision of treatment guidelines to assure that your recommendations are consistent with the most updated information.

It is our priority to offer high-quality services and support practices for health promotion and diseases prevention. If you have any questions or wish to have more information regarding this document, you can call us directly or view PharmPix communications online.

QUESTIONS

Call us at 787-522-5252-ext. 220

Access our recent communications at our providers' portal: https://www.pharmpix.com/providers/.

PharmPix is committed to the health and wellness of our members.

The clinical team wants to communicate you with the latest up-to-date drug information requested.

What is Monkeypox?[1]

Monkeypox is a virus from the *Orthopoxvirus* genus, similar to smallpox but less severe and rarely fatal. In 2022, there has been 1 death due to monkeypox and 24,572 total cases in the U.S. of which 170 cases have been from Puerto Rico. Globally, there has been 64,916 total cases and 24 deaths, 12 of these deaths have been in locations that have not historically reported monkeypox.

How It Spreads [1]

Monkeypox can spread through direct contact with rash, scabs, body fluids, respiratory secretions, objects, fabrics and surfaces that have been used by someone with monkeypox. Scientists are still researching if the virus can be spread when someone has no symptoms. It is also possible to get monkeypox from an infected animal. For example, by being bitten or scratched by the animal.

Signs & Symptoms [1,2]

Symptoms start within 3 weeks of exposure and the illness may usually last 2-4 weeks. Patients with monkeypox will get a rash that can be located in hands, feet, chest, face, mouth, genitals and/or anus. The lesions will evolve from painful or itchy blisters to scabs or crusts before healing. Other symptoms that patients may experience are fever, swollen lymph nodes, headache, exhaustion and respiratory symptoms.

Prevention [1,3]

Prevention steps for monkeypox include avoiding close skin-to-skin contact with someone who has a rash that looks like monkeypox, avoiding contact with objects and materials from a person with monkeypox and washing hands often.

In the U.S., there are currently two vaccines that may be used to prevent monkeypox (JYNNEOS™ and ACAM2000™). The FDA authorized emergency use of JYNNEOS™ for monkeypox on August 9, 2022. They determined that the known potential benefits for the vaccine outweighed the potential risks. Hence, the FDA allows healthcare providers to administer the vaccine intradermally to individuals 18 years of age and older. Also, they allow the use of the vaccine, subcutaneously, in individuals younger than 18 years determined to be at high risk for monkeypox infection. The vaccine can be given as a two-dose series, 4 weeks apart, for all age groups. On the other hand, ACAM2000™ is a live vaccine that should be administered as a single dose, by a multiple puncture technique with a bifurcated needle. However, it is not approved or authorized for emergency use against monkeypox. Nevertheless, it may be used against monkeypox under FDA's Expanded Access Investigational New Drug (IND) mechanism, which requires informed consent along with additional IND requirements.

If Exposed [1]

If exposed to someone with monkeypox symptoms, the CDC recommends watching for symptoms of monkeypox for 21 days after the exposure, consider getting vaccinated and if monkeypox symptoms are developed, visit a healthcare provider.

If considering vaccination, it should be administered within 4 days from the date of the exposure. If the vaccine is administered after the 4th day until the 14th day of exposure, the vaccine will reduce the symptoms of the disease, but it may not prevent the disease.

Treatment [4]

Currently, there are no treatments specifically for monkeypox. However, since monkeypox is caused by a virus that is closely related to smallpox, antiviral drugs approved for smallpox, such as tecovirimat (TPOXX™) may be used to treat monkeypox. TPOXX™ is being made available through a randomized controlled clinical trial sponsored by the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and through the CDC under FDA's Expanded Access Investigational New Drug (IND) mechanism. Moreover, it is recommended only for people with severe monkeypox disease or for patients with high risk of severe disease, such as, patients who are immunocompromised because if TPOXX™ is prescribed for patients with milder monkeypox, it may increase the chance of monkeypox developing resistance towards the drug.

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