to normal control group ($P < 0.01$); S0–1 group and the normal control group were no significant difference ($P > 0.05$); S0–1 group and S2–4 group were significantly different ($P < 0.01$); S0–1 group and end stage of cirrhosis group were significantly different ($P < 0.01$); S2–4 group and end stage of cirrhosis group were significantly different ($P < 0.01$).

2. The correlation analysis between serum HBV DNA and liver fibrosis stage. There was no correlation between HBV DNA level and liver fibrosis stage ($r = -0.140$, $P > 0.05$).
3. The correlation analysis between serum HBV DNA and AT1R mRNA. There was no correlation between HBV DNA level and AT1RmRNA ($r = -0.014$, $P > 0.05$).
4. AT1 protein and AT1RmRNA are weakly or not expressed in normal liver tissue, but are both obviously up-regulated in fibrotic or cirrhotic tissue, and the expressing intensities are closely related to the degrees of fibrotic stages. Therefore, Ang II and AT1R through RAS activation could play an important role during the onset and development of liver fibrosis.
5. Serum HBV DNA levels are neither related to fibrotic stages nor related to the expressions of AT1mRNA in liver tissue.

OL-018 Efficacy of interferon for chronic hepatitis B patients with normal or paranormal ALT

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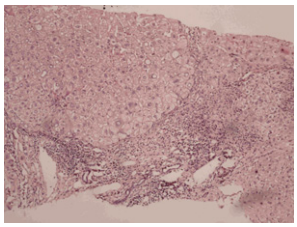
Background: It is difficult to determine whether chronic HBV infection patients with normal or paranormal ALT should to be treated. Manifold factors should be considered befor initiating antiviral therapy. Especially, liver biopsy may be necessary for some cases. We reported Interferon treatment for 4 cases with normal or paranormal ALT but in which liver histologic exam showed G2–4 and/or S3–4.
Methods: 4 patients were male with an average age of 28 years (20-35). Mean ALT was 46.7 IU/L (36-59) and HBV DNA level was 3--5 log10 copies/ml. Two patients were HBeAg positive; one patient was both negative for HBeAg and anti-HBe and one patient was anti-HBe positive. Liver biopsy histological examination showed G2 in 3 patients, G3 in 1 patients, S3 in 3 patients and S3--4 in 1 patient. 4 patients were treated with IFN-alpha (3–5 million IU, 3 times a week). Liver biopsy was taken after 1 year treatment. In one patient, 8 extra months IFN and adefovir combination therapy was taken and liver biopsy was taken after combination treatment.
Results: All patients got normal Alt after 1 year treatment. HBV DNA was undetectable in 3 patients. 2 patients with initial positive HBeAg cleared HBeAg. But 3 patients still were anti-HBeAg negative after 1 year treatment.Liver biopsy histological examination after 1 year treatment showed change fromG4 S3–4 to G2 S2–3 in 1 patient; fromG2 S3 to G3 S4 in 1 patient and no change in the other 2 patients.
Conclusions: All 4 patients we investigated are young and with low HBV DNA level, normal or paranormal ALT, and severe liver inflammation and fibrosis in liver histology. Usually, antiviral treatment in chronic hepatitis B patients with normal or paranormal ALT is not so effective. However, little is known about the regimen and effect of antiviral treatment in these patients with normal ALT but severe inflammation and fibrosis in histological examinations. In these 4 patients, IFN was initially used. Though ALT and HBV DNA improved after 1 year treatment, histological improvement is not satisfying. 1 patient's improvement in liver histology may be due to seroconversion before Interferon therapy. For this patient, Adefovir was added after 10 months of interferon therapy. After 8 months of combination therapy we did liver biopsy again. The other 3 patients were HBeAg negative, but HBeAb were also negative, liver biopsy was taken 1year later without combination of nucleoside analogs. Patients were followed for further study.



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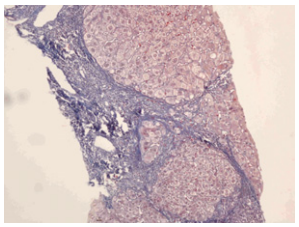

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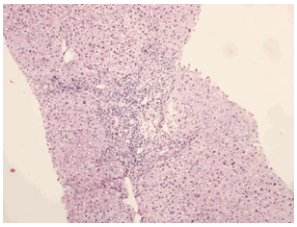
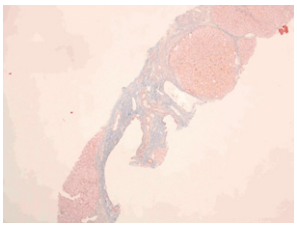
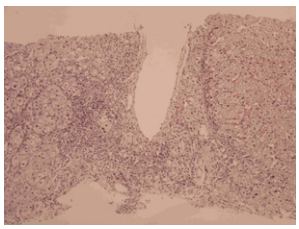
Case 1, Pre-treatment; G2, S3.





Case 1, Post-treatment; G3, S4.



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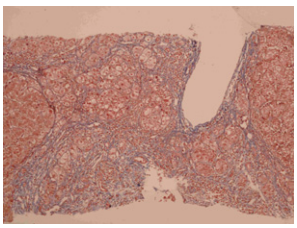

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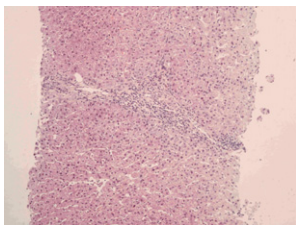
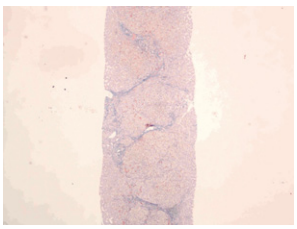
Case 2, Pre-treatment; G4, S3–4.





Case 2, Post-treatment; G2, S2–3.

Free Paper Presentation 3 – Basic Science and Animal Models

OL-019 Effect of scilencing connective tissue growth factor on rats TGF-β/Smads signal

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Objective: To investigate the effect of small interfering RNA targeting connective tissue growth factor (CTGF) on rats TGF-β/Smads signal.