Results: 43.9% of patients achieved a rapid virological response (RVR) and 69.1% of patients had a complete early virological response (cEVR). The serum alanine aminotransferase (ALT) normalization rates were 70.9% and 86.2% at week 4 and 12. Analyzing IL-28B variation (rs12979860), more proportions of patients with the CC genotype (46.7% or 75.3%) achieved a RVR or a cEVR respectively, compared to patients with the CT/TT genotypes (23.8% or 35.3%). However, in a multivariable logistic regression model, the IL-28B genotype was not shown statistically to be a predictive value for RVR or cEVR.

Baseline predictive factors for RVR included the serum HCV RNA <4×10^5 IU/mL (OR: 0.16) and gender (in females, OR: 0.39). The HCV genotype was only a predictive factor for cEVR (2a vs 1b, OR: 8.80). The treatments for 28 patients were discontinued due to adverse events such as anaemia and fatigue.

Conclusion: The recombinant IFN-2b therapy demonstrated a potent anti-virus effect and a significant biochemical improvement. It has good tolerance and safety profiles. The serum HCV RNA, gender and the HCV genotype were identified as valuable predictors for patients who responded to IFN/RBV treatments in the present study.

OL-008 The Diagnostic and prognostic significance of intrahepatic transforming growth factor-β1, angiotensin converting enzyme-2, alpha smooth muscle actin and endoglin in liver fibrosis associated chronic HCV infection

N. Ehsan1*, O. Hendy1, M. El-Sabawi1, O.K. El Hadad1.
1National Liver Institute, Egypt

Background: Hepatic fibrosis develops as a response to HCV-related chronic liver injury. Proliferative response of hepatocytes is crucial in HCV infection as hepatocytes are the primary site for HCV replication and receive different cellular stress from surrounding cells.

Objectives: To study intrahepatic expression of transforming growth factor β1 (TGF-β1), Angiotensin converting enzyme-2 (ACE-2), Alpha-smooth muscle actin (α-SMA) and endoglin, a TGF-β receptors in liver biopsies from patients with chronic HCV infection and correlate results with stage of fibrosis and necro inflammatory activity.

Methods: Forty two patients with chronic HCV infection, 20 females, 22 males, median age 34.5 years whose liver biopsy showed different stages of fibrosis were included in this study. Tissue expression of TGF-β1, ACE-2, α-SMA were investigated by immunohistochemistry on paraffin-embedded liver tissues and tissue expression of endoglin by immunoblotting. Immunoactive semiquantitative score was applied to compare immunohistochemical results with histological findings according to Ishak scoring system for histological activity index (HAI) and stage of fibrosis.

Results: Statistical analysis of data revealed a significant correlation between tissue TGF-β1, ACE-2, α-SMA and endoglin with stage of fibrosis; p=0.001, 0.05, 0.01, 0.001 respectively. Moreover, TGF-β1 correlated significantly with HAI, p=0.05.

Conclusion: Data from this study provide evidence for the implication of ACE-2 and TGF-β receptors in the pathogenesis of hepatic fibrosis as well as a possible role in prognostic and therapeutic management of cirrhosis.