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EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF TELAPREVIR IN PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC HEPATITIS C

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BACKGROUND

The addition of telaprevir to standard therapy, considerably improves response rates and allows reducing the duration of treatment in a significant number of patients.

PURPOSE

Assess the efficacy and safety of telaprevir in combination with peginterferon alfa-2b and ribavirin (RBV) in patients with hepatitis C virus genotype 1 (HCV).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

- Study observational restrospective of monoinfected patients HCV genotype 1, naïve and pretreated, who started treatment with telaprevir.
- The follow-up period was 24 weeks.
- We defined three types of patients:
  - **Relapsed patients:** those with undetectable viral load at the end of treatment but detectable at 24 weeks follow-up.
  - **Parcial responders:** patients with ≥2log$_{10}$ decline in viral RNA at week 12 but without undetectable viral load at week 24.
  - **Null responders:** patients with <2log$_{10}$ decline in viral RNA at week 12.
- Some of the variables used were the degree of fibrosis, the basal viral load, at week 4 and at week 12 (IU/ml), the duration of the treatment in weeks, the basal dose of RBV (mg/day), the basal hemoglobin, at week 4 and at week 12 (mg/dl), the need for blood transfusions and support with erythropoietin and the skin toxicity (mild/moderate/severe).

RESULTS

- We included 16 patients (81.3 % men and 18.8 women).
- 15 patients presented undetectable viral load at week 4 and 12, reducing the duration of treatment to 24 weeks.
- RBV dose was reduced in 6 patients and 2 patients started with a dose of 600 mg, in both cases without compromising treatment success.
- 7 patients had anemia, of which 2 required transfusions and erythropoietin.
- 12 cases had skin toxicity (8 mild, 3 moderate and 1 severe with subsequent interruption of treatment at week 4).

CONCLUSIONS

The data confirm those reported in the ILLUMINATE study, with high rates of rapid virological response and reduction of treatment from 48 to 24 weeks, but with a higher rate of skin toxicity although most mild to moderate.