



ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS, INCLUDING SJS, TEN

## SKIN SIDE EFFECTS OF ANTIVIRAL THERAPY ON CHRONIC HEPATITIS C: A MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDY

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**Introduction:** Hepatitis C is a real health problem worldwide, because of its frequency and severity. Chronic hepatitis C therapy is well codified, based in our country, on the combination of a pegylated interferon alpha and ribavirin. This therapy is efficient in more than half of the cases, but it is causing many skin side effects. The aim of our work is to identify and analyze mucocutaneous manifestations due to antiviral therapy in patients with hepatitis C.

**Material and Methods:** A monocentric prospective study, conducted at hepatogastroenterology department over one year, in collaboration with dermatologist and psychiatrist. Seventy-two patients were included in the study, and fifty-four cases received therapy with pegylated interferon alpha and ribavirin. The duration of treatment vary from 24 to 72 weeks.

**Results:** The middle age of patients was 54 years, dermatological history was noted in 11.2% of the cases. Viral load was higher in 48.6%, and 55.5% of patients had genotype one. A negativity of viral load was achieved in 67% of patients. Skin side effects of antiviral therapy were noted on 95% of cases. Local events at the injection site found on 95% were: erythema (83%), pain, pruritus and induration. Median time to onset these lesions was a week. Generalized mucocutaneous manifestations were dominated by xerosis with pruritus (82%), telogen effluvium (35%), eczema (28%), vitiligo (7%), psoriasis (1.8%) and oral erosions (37%).

**Discussion:** Skin side effects of antiviral therapy were very common in our study, they were essentially observed in older patients; with a high viral load and those with Long-term treatment holders of genotype 1. These various side effects can significantly change the quality of life of patients. This supposed that all patients should be warned of these events, especially older one and those with genotype 1, for optimizing the response to therapy.

