Molecular characterization of the Hepatitis B virus genotypes in Colombia: A Bayesian inference on the genotype F.

Alvarado Mora MV, Romano CM, Gomes-Gouvêa MS, Gutierrez MF, Botelho L, Carrilho FJ, Pinho JR.

Laboratory of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, São Paulo Institute of Tropical Medicine and Department of Gastroenterology, School of Medicine, University of São Paulo, Brazil.


Abstract

In this study, we characterized HBV genotypes in 143 HBsAg-positive volunteer blood donors from Colombia.

Is the interferon-α-triggered depressive episode a self-limited kind of depression? Four cases of persistent affective symptoms after antiviral treatment in HCV-infected individuals.

Galvão-de Almeida A, Quarantini LC, Batista-Neves S, Lyra AC, Paraná R, de Oliveira IR, Miranda-Scippa A, Guindalini C.

Department of Neurosciences and Mental Health, Universidade Federal da Bahia, Teaching Hospital - Psychiatry Service, Bahia, Brazil.
In three out of the four cases identified, major depression diagnosis was reached after more than 12 months of interferon-α therapy interruption and, in one case, depression recurred 6 months after antiviral treatment cessation in a patient on antidepressants.


Posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome after liver transplantation in children: A rare complication related to calcineurin inhibitor effects.


Liver Transplantation Unit, Children's Institute, Hospital das Clinicas, University of Sao Paulo Medical School, Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Abstract: Neuroclinical and radiological syndrome that results from treatment with calcineurin inhibitor immunosuppressives. Severe hypertension is commonly present, but some patients may be normotensive. We report herein two children who received liver transplants, as treatment for biliary atresia in the first case and for Alagille's syndrome in the second one. In the early postoperative, both patients presented hypertension and seizures. In both cases, the image findings suggested the diagnosis of PRES.

Treatment of recurrent hepatitis C post-liver transplantation.

Marroni CA.

Gastroenterology, Federal University of Health Sciences of Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

Recurrent hepatitis C after liver transplantation is universal. Graft reinfection occurs rapidly, with chronic hepatitis and rapid evolution from end-stage liver disease. Within 5 years until 30% of patients with recurrent disease ultimately progress to cirrhosis, and survival of transplanted patients with recurrent hepatitis C virus has been shown to be lower than of patients transplanted for other indications. Antiviral therapy in this patient population is generally recommended, but indication, optimal timing, dose and duration of therapy are not clearly defined.


Predictors of response to chronic hepatitis C treatment.

Moraes Coelho HS, Villela-Nogueira CA.

Hepatology Division, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro.

Abstract

Nowadays the standard of care for hepatitis C therapy is based on Pegylated interferon alpha and ribavirin (Peg IFN/RBV). This combination has led to a sustained virological response rate
(SVR) of 50 to 80% depending on genotype. This is still low, considering the side effects, overall costs and duration of therapy.


Viral factors induce Hedgehog pathway activation in humans with viral hepatitis, cirrhosis, and hepatocellular carcinoma.


Abstract

Hedgehog (Hh) pathway activation promotes many processes that occur during fibrogenic liver repair. Whether the Hh pathway modulates the outcomes of virally mediated liver injury has never been examined. Gene-profiling studies of human hepatocellular carcinomas (HCCs) demonstrate Hh pathway activation in HCCs related to chronic infection with hepatitis B virus (HBV) or hepatitis C virus (HCV).