

## **MARKAR survey: influence of direct antiviral drugs in patients with hepatitis C virus infection**

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The standard of care for hepatitis C is constantly changing and presents excellent results. Until recently, treatment of chronic hepatitis C was based on therapy with interferon and ribavirin, which required weekly injections for a period of 48 weeks. The treatment was found to be effective in half of patients, presenting a low safety profile. It exacerbated adverse drug reactions, sometimes dangerous and debilitating. Recently, new antiviral drugs have been developed. These drugs, called direct antiviral agents (DAAs) are more effective, safer, better tolerated and the treatment is shorter (usually 12 weeks) than previous therapies. The improvement of safety profile and quality of life related to therapy with DAAs has already been evaluated in multicenter clinical trials (Younossi ZM et al.,2017; Carrieri MP et al.,2017), however real life data were never analysed. To evaluate the efficacy of new antiviral therapy in real life a team of experts, consisting in two clinical pharmacologist, infectious disease specialists and a statistician, formulated the questionnaire to be addressed to patients. The survey evaluated the efficacy of new antiviral therapy, its safety, adherence and its influence on the patient's daily life, demographic characteristics of patients were also required. It consist of 18 questions, open and multiple choice. The aim of the analysis was also to assess psychological attitude, the sociability, the physical condition and general health of the patient.

Preliminary data (63 survey), showed that most of our patients were male (57,14%) and the average age was 58,7 years old. Among the new DAAs the most prescribed were dasabuvir, ombitasvir/paritaprevir/ritonavir, sofosbuvir and its association with ledipasvir, daclatasvir, simeprevir and. Twenty-eight patients (44,4%) were treated both with old and new therapy: 96,4% of them declared that the new DAAs therapy improved daily life with less adverse drug reactions and better adherence. Furthermore, considering the total of the respondents subjects, 87,3% had assumed regularly the therapy. Lastly, at the end of therapy, evidences suggested that 73% of patients asserted that their general conditions improved significantly.

The use of survey for monitoring patients daily life with HCV infection is a necessary tool for physicians, who can draw important information in order to improve clinical practice as reducing the impact that HCV therapy has on the quality of life.

Younossi ZM et al. (2017).Medicine (Baltimore).96(7):e5914.

Carrieri MP et al.(2017). Patient. 28.