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Title: Difficult-to-treat genotypes but moderate fibrosis of hepatitis C patients in Vietnam.

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Abstract: (will be pasted in abstract part of web page)

Introduction:

Scarce published information is available on hepatitis C with liver biopsy in Vietnam. Decision to treat in a setting where many patients cannot afford therapy must be tailored to local conditions. *Patients and methods:* All cases with liver biopsy at the FV Hospital were recorded for epidemiology, laboratory and histology data. We report a case series description of 100 liver biopsies.

Results:

The group included 50% men, 98% Vietnamese, mean age 48 years, BMI < 25 in 84% . Risk factors were previous surgery in 49%, blood transfusion in 25%, therapeutic injections in 40%, acupuncture in 20%, and heroin injection in 2%. Only 20% drank more than 20g of alcohol. HCV genotypes were 68% genotype 1, 6% genotype 2, 1% genotype 3, and 25% genotype 6. Metavir scores of fibrosis were F0 51%, F1 18%, F2 16%, F3 5%, F4 10%. Inflammatory activity was A0-A1 79%, A2 21%.

Discussion:

Additional risk factors for progression of fibrosis such as alcohol and overweight were not found. Difficult-to-treat genotype 1 was found in 2/3 of cases while genotype 6 was found in 1/4 of cases, a genotype for which there is no documented response rate. Liver biopsy demonstrated that benign histological forms (F0-F1 69%) were predominant over more severe forms (F2-F4 31%).

Conclusion:

This series of hepatitis C with liver biopsy in Vietnam shows predominance of genotype 1 and high frequency of genotype 6, while fibrosis is rather moderate on histology, most likely because of absence of other risk factors for fibrosis.