



ABSTRACT

Treatment of chronic hepatitis C (HCV) is currently undergoing a significant change. Conventional interferon-based therapy has been constrained by both efficacy and tolerability, and many direct-acting antiviral (DAA) drugs are emerging. Sofosbuvir is an HCV NS5B nucleotide polymerase inhibitor that has now been evaluated extensively.

Patients and Methods: In this prospective study, a total number of 300 patients positive for Anti HCV were studied. These cases were initially screened for HCV antibodies using ELISA technique and then confirmed by the detection of HCV RNA using real-time PCR. HCV RNA was detected among the 229 cases out of 300 HCV antibodies positive cases. These confirmed 229 cases of Hepatitis C virus infection had a variable amount of viral load. They were employed with 400 mg Sofosbuvir and 60 mg Daclatasvir for 12 weeks to obtain the sustained virologic response (SVR). A high rate of 93 % sustained virologic response (SVR) seen in them without any treatment-limiting side effects which had been observed during interferon therapy.

Results: All the cases infected with the Hepatitis C virus infection (HCV) were between the ages of 20 years to 75 years of age. For the 229 cases, the mean age of hepatitis C virus-infected patients was between 40-50 years, of which 66% were female and 34 % were male patients. Genotype 3 was the most prevalent genotype (94%) among HCV infected patients. Genotype 2 and 1 was less common. Different cure indicators such as Alanine Aminotransferase (ALT), Aspartate Aminotransferase (AST) and Platelet count in blood was determined before and after the antiviral therapy. Out of 229 patients, 186 (81.2%) patients had an abnormal level of ALT, and 175 (76.4%) of the patients had an abnormal level of AST observed before starting the antiviral therapy while, variable distribution seen among HCV patients for platelet count. Among 229 HCV infected patients the highest viral load seen was 10⁸ IU/mL while, 83 (38.4%) cases had 10⁶ IU/mL viral load followed by 75 (34.7%) cases who had a viral load of 10⁵ IU/mL and 31 (14.4%) cases had a viral load of 10⁴ IU/mL. Patients were taking a fixed dose of Sofosbuvir 400 mg and Daclatasvir 60 mg daily for 12 weeks. The goal of HCV treatment was to obtain a sustained virologic response (SVR), classically defined as undetectable HCV RNA 12 weeks of treatment completion. After 12 weeks of successful