



ABSTRACT

Hepatitis C is highly infectious disease responsible for Hepatitis in approximately 200 million people worldwide. The prevalence of hepatitis in Pakistan is around 5%. The current treatment is based on combination therapy of interferon and ribavirin. The data on sustained virological response is limited so the present study was designed to conduct a follow up study for the patients who have completed their treatment regime. Five hundred patients were screened through immune chromatography, ELISA and PCR and their genotypes were also detected. Viral load levels with age groups of individuals showing that ($P= 0.540$) but no correlation was found between viral load and age groups of individuals. No correlation was found between HCV genotype and viral load of individuals ($P=0.435$). The sustained virological response was evaluated from 4 weeks post treatment (PT) up to 24 weeks by using highly sensitive Real Time PCR. At the end of the treatment after twenty four weeks 14.7% patients showed no response to therapy whereas 85.3% were exhibited good virological response. Out of 85.3% patients who showed virological response 17.2% patients showed virological relapse while an importantly 82.7% individuals exhibited sustained virological response. Determination of sustained virological response will help to evaluate the outcome of current anti HCV therapy and its interaction with HCV genotypes.