



ABSTRACT

Present study was carried out to find the most prevalent HCV genotype circulating in Punjab. Five hundred and fifty eight HCV positive patients were included in this study. Among 558 patients 59.3% were females and 40.7% were males. Patients were divided into two age groups. 61.85% patients were of up to 40 years of age while 38.17% patients were above 40 years of age. Genotype 3 was most prevalent with 77.8% followed by type 1 with 14.7%, untypeables with 5.4%, mixed infection with 1.8% and then type 4 with 0.4%. Serum SGPT and SGOT levels were determined but no relationship was found between HCV genotypes and SGOT ($P=0.699$) and SGPT ($P= 0.130$) levels. HCV RNA viral load of every patient was estimated but no correlation was found between HCV genotypes and RNA titer ($P=0.638$). Out of 558 patients 23.84% received combined therapy of interferon and ribavirin and only 13.53% responded to the therapy and they all had genotype 3. No significant correlation was found between genotypes and interferon and ribavirin therapy. Multiple risk factor history was found in most of the cases 66.31% but history of dental procedure alone and in combination with other risk factors was found predominant. Only significant relation was found between profession of patients and HCV genotype ($P= 0.036$). In present study most of the infected patients were females and they majority of them were housewives (38.35%). After housewives, laborers were second highest (21.32%) infected population.