

May 10-11, 2018
Frankfurt, GermanyHadaf Dhafir Al Yaseen, J Transm Dis Immun 2018, Volume 2
DOI: 10.21767/2573-0320-C2-005

INDUCTION OF AUTOIMMUNE ANTIBODIES AND THE IMMUNE RESPONSE OF PROLACTIN DIRECT THE MANAGEMENT IN PATIENTS INFECTED WITH HEPATITIS C VIRUS: AN IRAQI STUDY

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Hepatitis C virus (HCV) is a serious infectious disease that can cause lifelong infection. Infection with chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) can lead to autoimmune hepatitis (AIH) in a minority of patients. Viral infection induces, both (*in vivo* and *in vitro*) tumor necrosis factor (TNF-alpha) production in hepatocytes, and these findings suggest that TNF-alpha may have an important role in human liver diseases induced by viruses, together with the prolactin hormone, which is an endocrinal hormone that acts like a cytokine involved in immune response. Our study showed that chronic hepatitis C virus infection associated with a statistical significant increase in the antismooth muscle antibody, while no statistical significant increase in antinuclear antibody were shown in this study. The study elucidated a statistically non-significant increase in mean value of prolactin hormone in chronic hepatitis C patients but a significant increase in tumor necrosis factor-alpha. No significant correlations were found between prolactin hormone

and tumor necrosis factor-alpha. The study concluded that chronic hepatitis C associated with an immunological abnormality mainly represented with antismooth muscle antibody. Tumor necrosis factor-alpha increased in chronic hepatitis C virus infection with no significant correlations with prolactin hormone.

Biography

Prof. Dr. Hadaf Dhafir Al Yaseen was faculty in University of Baghdad in the Department of Biochemistry, College of Medicine at University of Baghdad. She finished her Post Doctorate in Clinical Biochemistry at Al-Nahrain University. She is currently the head of the Department of Clinical Biochemistry, University of Baghdad, Iraq. She actively participated in 43 local conferences in Iraq and 26 abroad, making a total of 69 conferences attendance and paper presentation. She also published 85 articles.

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