

The Sustained Virologic Response in Chronic Hepatitis C Patients Treated with Interferon Mono-Therapy

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Abstract : Five hundred forty-four patients were underwent an interferon mono-therapy for chronic hepatitis C at Fukuoka University Hospital and an affiliated institutions from January 1992 to May 2005. A sustained virologic response (SVR) was obtained in 201 patients(37.0 %). A statistical analysis demonstrated that SVR tended to be lower in elderly patients and it was significantly low in patients with a progressive fibrotic liver ($p < 0.05$). Regarding the serotype and serum RNA levels of the virus in 379 patients, the SVR was as follows. In the serotype 1 group, the SVR was 11.1% and 62.5% in the high and low virus RNA group, respectively. In the serotype 2 group, the SVR was 40% and 68.6% in the high and low virus RNA group, respectively. In conclusion, interferon mono-therapy cannot provide a sufficient therapeutic effect in chronic hepatitis C patients with serotype 1 and a high HCV-RNA level. However, the present study revealed that interferon mono-therapy is recommended for young patients demonstrating an early liver fibrotic stage.

Key words : Chronic hepatitis C, Interferon, Sustained virologic response