

Treatment with a Phlebotomy for Chronic Hepatitis C

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Abstract : We performed a phlebotomy in five patients with chronic hepatitis C. The serum aminotransferase (ALT) levels in all patients treated by a phlebotomy decreased in comparison to the levels before treatment. In the long term follow-up, the normalization of the serum ALT values was maintained for 48 months. A phlebotomy has been reported to have a suppressive effect on hepatic fibrosis and hepatocarcinogenesis, while also having an enhancing effect on interferon therapy. We thus consider a phlebotomy to be a safe and effective therapy for patients with chronic hepatitis C.

Key words : Chronic hepatitis C, Phlebotomy, Suppressive effects on the hepatic fibrosis, Hepatocarcinogenesis, Interferon