

Ribavirin Therapy of Acute Viral Hepatitis "B" and "C". PAQUENTIN, J., FORTUÑO, V. and CRUZ, G.; Infectology Hospital "La Raza", IMSS, Mexico City, Mexico.

A randomized double blind placebo-controlled trial was performed on 54 adults. 40 patients were HBsAg and HBeAg positive and classified as Hepatitis "B" (H-B), and 14 were HBsAg, HBeAg and Anti-HA negative and catalogued as type "C" (H-C). Ribavirin was given at 20mg/Kg/day for 10 days by oral route in 20 H-B and 6 H-C patients, the 28 remaining received placebo (PL). Clinical parameters as jaundice, acholia, choluria, asthenia, anorexia, malaise and myalgias, disappeared faster (35%) in patients treated with RB in both H-B and H-C. AST was normal at day 20 in 80% vs 50%, and ALT in 85% vs 75%, for RB and PL H-B patients respectively. Normal values in the H-C group were reached at day 20 in 83% vs 38% (AST) and 100% vs 38% (ALT) for RB and PL. Mean values were:

	AST (H-B)				AST (H-C)			
	RB	PL	RB	PL	RB	PL	RB	PL
DAY 0	921	704	1064	878	726	878	1085	834
DAY 5	376	423	475	493	211	493	261	522
DAY 10	181	260	195	271	114	271	126	340
DAY 15	91	151	99	135	62	135	51	156
DAY 20	51	66	45	56	34	56	34	71

At day 20, total serum bilirubin was normal in 80% and 100% of ribavirin treated H-B and H-C patients respectively versus 55% and 25% on those treated with placebo. A mild non-significant reduction (3.5%) in hemoglobin and hematocrit values was observed in RB treated patients. We conclude that ribavirin may be valuable in treating patients with acute H-B and H-C. It would be interesting to know if ribavirin can prevent chronic viral hepatitis or other complications.

Observation on Antiviral Effect of Combined Treatment on Small Dose Interferon and Thymosin in Patients with Chronic Hepatitis B.

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38 cases of chronic hepatitis B were treated with interferon and thymosin. Another 23 cases of chronic hepatitis B were treated only with interferon in the same dosage and period. The uses of these two drugs were that interferon 60000IU im q.o.d. and thymosin 2 ml, 2 times a week im on deltoid muscle of upper arm for 3 months. The result showed that after treatment, in the first group, 21 of 32 cases with positive HBeAg became into negative (65.6%) 4 of 6 cases with positive HBcAg turned into negative (66.6%) 6 of 11 cases with positive DNAP became negative (54.5%) and HBV-DNA negatively transferred rate was 24%(6/25). In the second group, 7 of 18 cases with positive HBeAg became negative (38.9%) 1 case with positive HBcAg also became negative, 2 of 4 cases with positive DNAP turned into negative for HBV-DNA, it was 16.6%(1/6). The titer of HBsAg in the two groups decreased in different level. In some cases, anti-HBe became positive. According to the results, it is obvious that antiviral activity of combined treatment is more effective than the single one.