



# SUMMARY



## **SUMMARY**

TGF- $\alpha$  the 50 amino acid polypeptide chain is considered one of the growth factors that is heavily linked to epithelial neoplasia. Many researchers have documented the use of TGF- $\alpha$  as a valuable tumour marker for early diagnosis of hepatic neoplasia. However, its role in cirrhosis and chronic hepatitis remains uncertain. This study was carried out to uncover the role of TGF- $\alpha$  in chronic liver diseases.

*The study was carried out on 30 subjects divided as follows:*

- 1- Control Group: 20 completely healthy subjects.
- 2- HCC Group: From the Liver Institute, 20 patients of hepatic neoplasia were selected on the basis of ultrasonography and needle biopsy.
- 3- Cirrhosis Group: 20 patients from The Inpatient Clinic of The Liver Institute, who were diagnosed by ultrasonography were chosen to constitute this group of compensated cirrhosis.
- 4- Chronic Hepatitis Group: 20 subjects from The Liver Institute Outpatient Clinics were serologically diagnosed and selected for this group.

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All members of the four groups were prone to thorough history taking, careful general and local examination and the following laboratory tests:

- C.B.C.
- Liver function tests: prothrombin time, total and direct bilirubin, serum albumin, total plasma protein level, GPT, GOT,  $\gamma$ GT, anti-HCV and HBsAg.
- Immunoglobulins G & M.
- $\alpha$ -fetoprotein level.
- Serum TGF- $\alpha$ .

This study elucidated a unique pattern of liver affection as regard the classic liver function tests.  $\alpha$ -fetoprotein was significantly elevated in the 3 chronic liver disease groups. TGF- $\alpha$  was significantly elevated in the HCC group but insignificantly raised in the cirrhotic and chronic hepatitis groups.

The significant rise of serum TGF- $\alpha$  in hepatic neoplasms is in agreement with many previous works as Schaff et al. (1994), Kira et al. (1997) and Kiss et al. (1998). However, the insignificant rise of TGF- $\alpha$  with other chronic liver affection

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as cirrhosis and chronic hepatitis needs further work to elucidate it.

Thus, it could be concluded that TGF- $\alpha$  could be used as a valuable tumour marker for early diagnosis and management of HCC. However, its role in cases of cirrhosis and chronic hepatitis remains uncertain, a finding that needs through investigation.