

INTRODUCTION AND AIM OF THE WORK

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Hepatitis C virus (HCV) is a major public health problem nowadays. About 50% of acute HCV infection become chronic (*Paver and Turner, 1993*).

Infection with HCV may have effects not only on the liver but also on various extrahepatic tissues (*Gumber and Chopra, 1995*).

Hepatitis C and diabetes mellitus (DM) represent an ongoing controversy (*Zein, 1998*). *Ozyilkan and Arslan (1996)* and *Grimbert et al. (1996)* reported high prevalence of DM in patients with CHCV, on the other hand *Mangia et al. (1998)* disproved HCV infection as a triggering factor for DM.

Simsek et al. (1996) frequently found hyperamylasemia in patients with CHCV infection. On the other hand, *Tsianos et al. (1996)* did not find hyperamylasemia in these patients. Furthermore, *Pezzilli et al. (1999)* did not find a conclusive association between CHCV infection and hyperamylasemia.

The aim of this work is to evaluate serum insulin, C-peptide and amylase concentrations in patients with chronic hepatitis C virus in a trial to search for any pathogenic impact of HCV on some of the endocrine and exocrine functions of the pancreatic gland.