Summary and conclusions

To achieve the goal of our study, a short review of relevant important physiological and pathological points about HCV infection together with short resume about the ANA and its relation with autoimmune diseases and HCV infection.

Our study was carried out on 100 patients having hepatitis c virus infection of both sex and age. Patients divided into 2 groups.

Group I :- consisted of 50 patients with Anti nuclear antibody positive titer.

Group II :- consisted of 50 patients with Anti nuclear antibody negative titer.

All patients were subjected to the following investigation. T. bilirubin, AST, ALT and PCR for HCV RNA. These investigations done pre treatment, 3 months and 6 months after treatment.

Liver biopsies were taken for all patients before treatment for staging of liver fibrosis and grading of necroinflammation.

In our study we observed that HCV infected patients who were ANA positive had higher PCR for HCV RNA more

than the ANA negative group before treatment. Also we noticed that the ANA negative group had good response to interferon therapy but the ANA positive group was more resistant to interferon therapy.

We also observed that in the ANA positive group there was more fibrosis in the liver biopsy before treatment compared with patients of the ANA negative group. Regarding the necroinflammation (activity), the same finding of the fibrosis it was significantly higher in the ANA positive group.

We noticed that the ANA had no effect the biochemical markers of the liver except for the serum AST which was significantly higher in the ANA positive group more than the ANA negative group 3 months and 6 months after treatment.

At the end we concluded that in the ANA positive group there is high viral load of HCV and more resistance to interferon therapy.

Also there is more advanced fibrosis and more necroinflammation compared with the ANA negative group before treatment.

Other studies needed to be done to complete the evaluation of the effect of the ANA positivity on the response of the treatment of the HCV infection.