Results

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The present study was applied on 500 patients with chronic hepatitis C receiving interferon therapy selected from out patient clinic of International Mansoura Hospital and Mansoura University Hospital in order to assess knowledge for patients with chronic hepatitis C receiving interferon therapy. The results obtained from this study will be portrayed under the following parts:

Part I: Sociodemographic characteristics of studied sample presented in (table 1, fig. 1).

Part II: Health history of the studied sample presented in (table 2, fig. 2, 3, 4, 5).

Part III: Knowledge of the patients about chronic hepatitis C receiving interferon therapy and side effect related to therapy presented in table (3, 4, 5 and fig. 6, 7).

Part IV: Relations between variables of the study represented in tables (6, 7)

Part I: Demographic characteristics of patients with hepatitis C receiving interferon therapy

Table (1): Sociodemographic characteristics of studied subjects.

Item	No=500	(%)
Age groups (in years)		
- 15->30	80	16
- 30->40	133	26.6
- 40->50	204	40.8
- 50-60	83	16.6
Mean = 40.010 Std. Deviation = 9.5299 Rang=43.00		
Gender		
- Male	367	73.4
- Female	133	26.6
Marital status		
- Married	420	84.0
- Not married	80	16
Level of education		
- Illiterate	132	26.4
- Read &write	107	21.4
- Secondary	214	42.8
- university	47	9.4
Occupation		
- Governmental sector	19	3.8
- Private sector	116	23.2
- Worker	58	11.6
- Farmer	106	21.2
- Retired	4	0.8
- Not worked	197	39.4
Monthly income		
- Enough	63	12.6
- Not enough	433	86.6
- More than enough	4	0.8

Tables (1) showed the characteristics of the study sample. It is clear from the table that (40.8%) of patients were in age group (40->50y), in addition to most of patients about (73.4%) were males. Regarding marital status, it was observed that most of patients (84.0%) were married. As regard to level of education, it is found that illiteracy was prevailing among (26.4%) of the studied sample, (21.4%) could just read and write, (42.8%) had completed secondary school, while only (9.4) of them had completed university degree. Concerning patients occupation, it is clear from the table that (39.9%) of the patients were not working and (86.6%) of patients had not enough monthly income.

Fig. (1): Distribution of patients according to their residence.

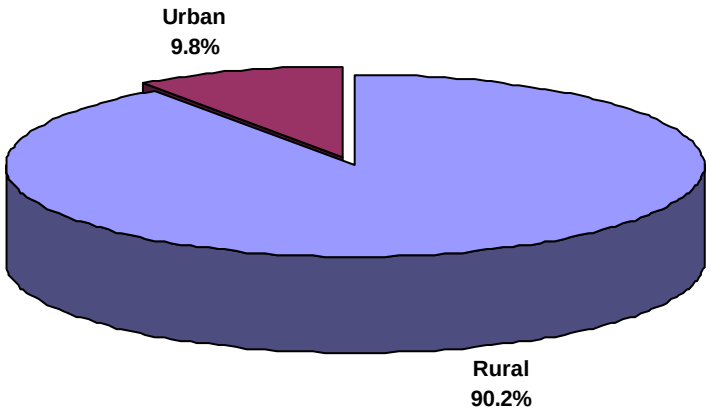

Figure (1) illustrate that majority of patients (90.2%) were from rural area while (9.8%) of patients were from the urban area

Part II: Distribution of hepatitis c patients according to their history.

Table (2): Distribution of studied subjects as regarding to Health History:

Item	No=500	%
Duration of hepatitis C		
- 1->5y	265	53
- 5->10y	118	23.6
- 10-20y	96	19.2
- >20y	21	4.2
Mean=6.225 SD=5.557 Rang=26.00		
Start treatment		
- > 6 months	171	34.2
- < 6 months	329	65.8
Presence of chronic diseases		
- Yes	149	29.8
- No	351	70.2
Family history of hepatitis C		
- Yes	155	31.0
- No	345	69.0
Degree of relativity		
- First degree	138	27.6
- Second degree	17	3.4
Hospitalization		
- Yes	207	41.4
- No	293	58.6
Type of Surgical operation		
- Yes	199	39.3
- No	301	60.2
Surgical Operation Found		
- Appendectomy	23	4.6
- Hysterectomy	13	2.6
- Cholecystoectomy	21	4.2
- others	142	28.4
Blood transfusion		
- Yes	18	3.6
- No	482	96.4
Bilharisiasis treatment		
- Yes	187	37.4
- No	313	62.6

Table (2) showed that more than half (53%) of studied subjects suffering from disease since 1->5 with mean ± 6.225, as well as about (65.8%) of studied subjects started treatment from about more than 6 months which is great indicator for treatment success. Concerning family history, it is notice that about one third of studied sample (31.0%) had positive family history, (27.6%) for first degree and (3.4%) for second degree. As regarding to (39.3%) of studied sample made surgical operations but (3.6%) of patients had blood transfusion in addition to (37.4%) of patients receive bilharisiais treatment.

Fig. (2): Distribution of studied subject as regarding to ways of discovering the disease.

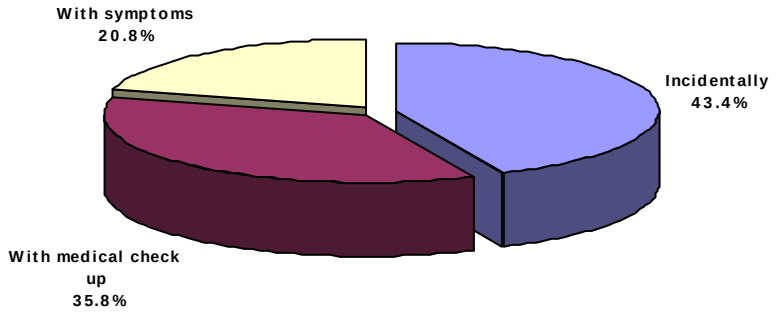

Fig. (3): Symptoms of discovering disease.

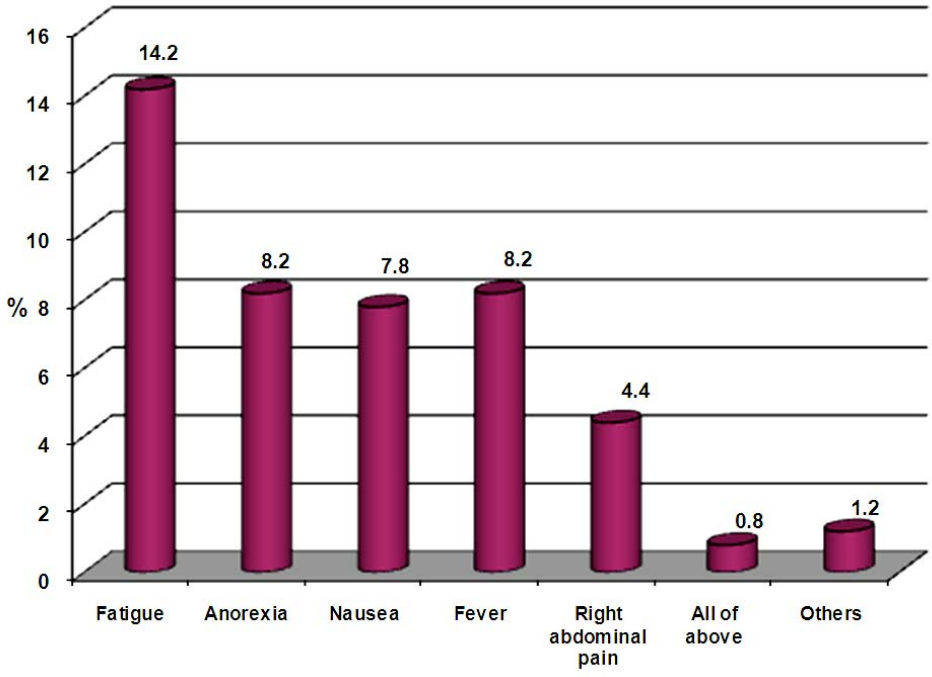

Fig (4): Distribution of studied sample according to presence of chronic disease.

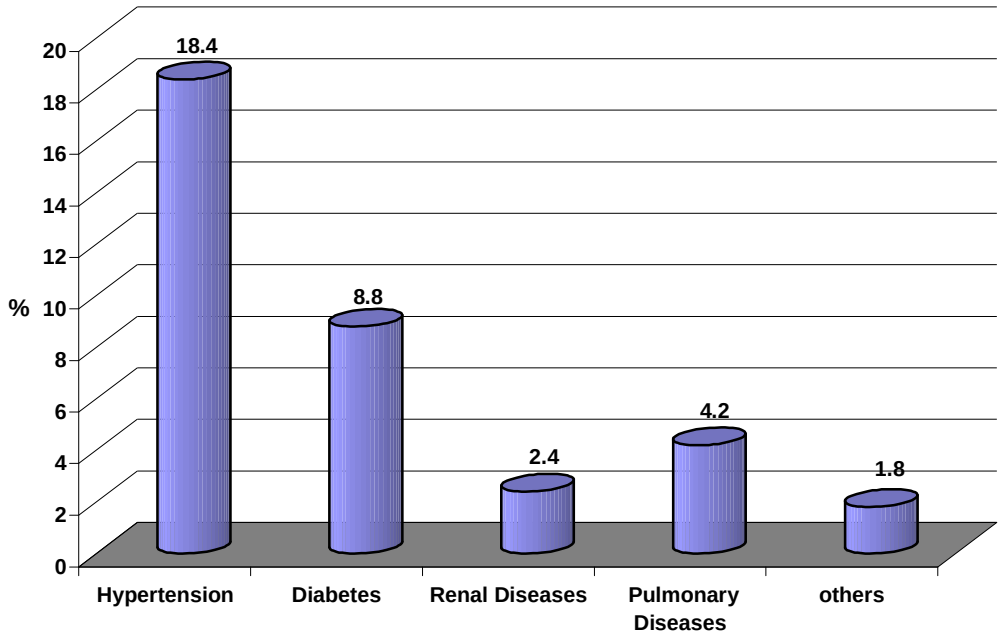

Figure (2, 3, 4): Illustrated that regarding to ways of discovering disease, it was found that (43.4%) of studied sample were discovering disease accidentally, about (20.8%) were discovering disease by symptoms, (14.2%) of studied subjects were discovered disease by fatigue and (8.2%) by anorexia. It was notice that (29.8%) of studied sample suffering from chronic diseases with majority to hypertension (18.4%) of studied sample, (8.8%) for diabetes and (4.2%) for pulmonary diseases.

Part III: Knowledge of studied sample about hepatitis C and side effects related to interferon therapy.

Table (3): Distribution of hepatitis C patients according to their knowledge about hepatitis C.

	Unsatisfied		Satisfied	
	No	%	No	%
Definition	407	81.4	93	18.6
Mode of Transmission	440	88	60	12
Signs & Symptoms	423	84.6	77	15.4
Complication	386	77.2	114	22.8
Investigation	145	29	355	71
Nutrition	418	83.6	82	16.4
Treatment	152	30.4	348	69.6
Action of interferon	452	90.4	48	9.6
Indication	450	90	50	10
Contraindication	437	87.4	63	12.6
Time of injection	28	5.6	472	94.4
Site of injection	27	5.4	473	94.6
Duration of treatment	26	5.2	474	94.8
Recommendations	500	100	0	0
Side effects	415	83	85	17

Table (3) showed that the majority of studied sample had unsatisfied knowledge score, for definition (81.4%), mode of transmission (88%), for recommendations about (100%). but had satisfied knowledge score about investigations (71%), for treatment (69.6%), with high knowledge score for time of injection (94.4%), for site of injection (94.6%) and for duration of injection (94.8%).

Table (4): Distribution of studied sample according to degree of knowledge.

Total Knowledge	Unsatisfied		Satisfied	
	No	%	No	%
	405	81	95	19

Fig. (5): Patients knowledge about hepatitis C.

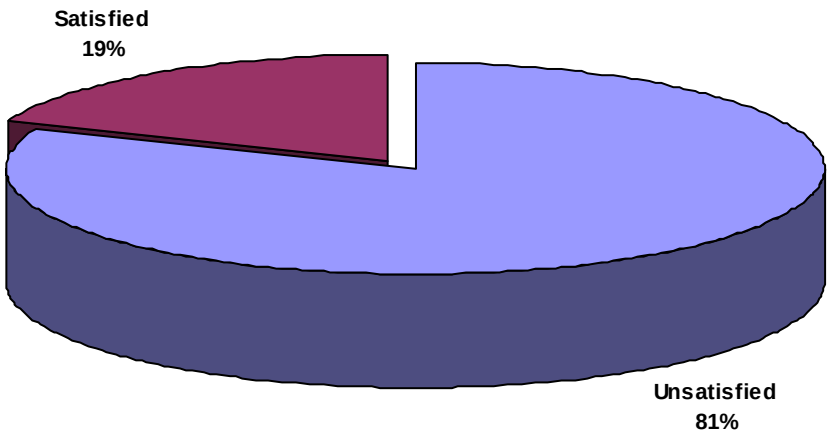

Table (4) and figure (5) Illustrate that (81%) of studied sample had unsatisfied knowledge score about hepatitis C where only (19%) of Them had satisfied knowledge score.

Table (5): Distribution of side effects of patients with chronic hepatitis C receiving interferon therapy.

Side effects of interferon therapy	Present	%	Not present	%
Injection site inflammation	157	31.4	343	68.6
Nausea	289	57.8	211	42.2
Vomiting	287	57.4	213	42.6
Anorexia	320	64.0	180	36.0
Diarrhea	11	2.2	489	97.8
Right abdominal pain	203	40.6	297	59.4
Dyspepsia	97	19.4	403	80.6
Constipation	97	19.4	403	80.6
Enlarged thyroid gland	67	13.4	433	86.6
Lethargy	209	41.8	291	58.2
Flushing face	121	24.2	379	75.2
Dry mouth	163	32.6	337	67.4
Heavy sweet	130	26.0	370	74.0
Headache	348	69.8	152	30.4
Fatigue	336	67.2	164	32.8
Fever	330	66.0	170	34.0
Malaise	165	33.0	335	67.0
Chest pain	111	22.2	389	77.8
Weight loss	123	24.6	377	75.4
Rigors	113	22.6	387	77.4
Depression	120	24.0	380	76.0
Insomnia	141	28.2	359	71.8
Anxiety	157	31.4	343	68.6
Irritability	296	59.2	204	40.8
Loss of concentration	264	52.8	236	47.2
Nervous	385	77.0	115	23.0
Dyspnea	137	27.4	363	72.6
Alopecia	84	16.8	416	83.2
Itching	184	36.8	316	63.2
Blurred vision	244	48.8	256	51.2
Conjunctivitis	249	49.8	251	50.2
Loss of taste	317	63.4	183	36.6
Hair loss	316	63.2	184	36.8
Urinary inflammation	172	34.4	328	65.8

Fig. (6): Most common side effects related to interferon therapy of studied sample.

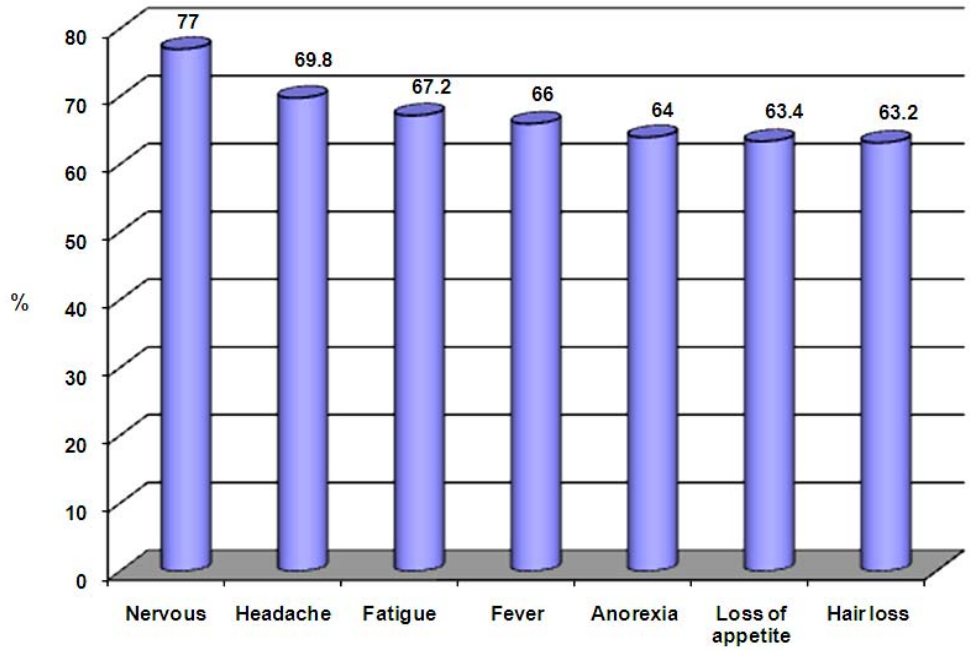

Table (5) and figure (6) revealed that most common side effects related to interferon therapy were nervous (77%), headache (69.8%), fatigue (67.2%), fever (66%) anorexia (64%) loss of appetite (63.4%), hair loss (63.2%) but diarrhea (2.2%), enlarged thyroid gland (13.4%) and alopecia (16.8%) are less common side effects related to interferon therapy.

Table (6): Relation between demographic characteristics and patient's knowledge:

Item	Unsatisfied >60%		Satisfied ≤60%		Total		P Value
	No	%	No	%	No	%	
Age							
- 15->30	61	15.1	19	20.0	80	16.0	
- 30->40	105	25.9	28	29.5	133	26.6	0.245
- 40->50	166	41.0	38	40.0	204	40.8	
- 50-60	73	18.0	10	10.5	83	16.6	
Sex							
- Male	305	75.3	62	65.3	367	73.4	0.046
- female	100	24.7	33	34.7	133	26.6	
Marital status							
- Single	44	10.9	7	7.4	51	10.2	
- Married	337	83.2	83	87.4	420	84.0	
- Widowed	18	4.4	3	3.2	21	4.2	0.666
- Divorced	6	1.5	2	2.1	8	1.6	
Level of education							
- Illiterate	120	29.6	12	12.6	132	26.4	
- Read&write	86	21.2	21	22.1	107	21.4	
- Secondary	164	40.5	50	52.6	214	42.8	0.006
- University	35	8.6	12	12.6	47	9.4	
Residence							
- Urban	34	8.4	15	15.8	49	9.8	0.029
- Rural	371	91.6	80	84.2	451	90.2	
Occupation							
- Official	14	3.5	5	5.3	19	308	
- Private sector	98	24.2	18	18.9	116	23.2	
- Worker	40	9.9	18	18.9	58	11.6	
- Farmer	97	24.0	9	9.5	106	21.2	0.004
- Retired	4	1.0	0	0	4	0.8	
- Not worked	152	37.5	45	47.4	197	39.4	

Table (11) showed that the characteristics of hepatitis C patients i.e. age, sex, marital status, level of education, residence and occupation. The results revealed that there were no significant statistical effects for age, sex and marital status on their knowledge score, while a highly significant difference were observed at level of education (0.006), residence (0.029) and occupation (0.004).

Table (7): Relation between patient's knowledge and duration of disease.

Item	Unsatisfied		Satisfied		Total		P Value
	No	%	No	%	No	%	
Duration							
- 1-5y	213	52.6	52	54.7	265	53.0	
- 5-10y	96	23.7	22	23.2	118	23.6	0.944
- 10-20y	78	19.3	18	18.9	96	19.2	
- ≥ 20y	18	4.4	3	3.2	21	4.2	

Table (12): The results revealed that there was no significant statistician difference between patient's knowledge and duration of disease.