



## Sustained Virological Response to Treatment of Chronic Hepatitis C in Midwest, Brazil

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**SUMMARY.** The purpose of the study was to present the differences in outcomes between the treatments of patients with chronic hepatitis C who attended the Hepatitis Referral Service of the state of Mato Grosso do Sul, Midwest region, Brazil, in the era of dual therapy. The medical records of 82 patients were reviewed and 92 treatments were observed in the study period. The sustained virological response (SVR) rate was 44.0% in patients treated with pegylated interferon alpha (PEG-INF) plus ribavirin (RBV) and it was 58.8% in patients treated with conventional interferon alpha (INF-c) plus RBV ( $p = 0.268$ ). The SVR is associated with PEG-INF use ( $p = 0.004$ ), viral load  $< 850,000$  IU/mL ( $p = 0.015$ ), normal values of alanine and aspartate aminotransferases ( $p < 0.001$ ), bilirubin ( $p = 0.002$ ) and glucose ( $p = 0.031$ ). SRV rate was reduced in patients who develop anemia ( $p = 0.033$ ). The treatment generally does not favor more than 50% of chronic hepatitis C carriers and many patients did not return to the referral service after the end of treatment.

**RESUMEN.** El propósito de este estudio es presentar las diferencias en los resultados entre los tratamientos de los pacientes con hepatitis C crónica que asistieron al Servicio de Referencia de Hepatitis en el estado de Mato Grosso do Sul, Medio Oeste, Brasil, en la era de la terapia dual. Las historias clínicas de 82 pacientes fueron revisadas y se analizaron 92 tratamientos en el período de estudio. La tasa de respuesta virológica (SVR) fue del 44,0 % en los pacientes tratados con interferón alfa PEGilado (PEG-INF) más ribavirina (RBV) y fue del 58,8% en los pacientes tratados con interferón alfa convencional (INF-c) más RBV ( $p = 0.268$ ). La SVR está asociada con el uso de PEG-INF ( $p = 0,004$ ), la carga viral  $< 850.000$  UI/mL ( $p = 0,015$ ), los valores normales de alanina y aspartato aminotransferasa ( $p < 0,001$ ), bilirrubina ( $p = 0,002$ ) y glucosa ( $p = 0,031$ ). La SRV se redujo en los pacientes que desarrollan anemia ( $p = 0,033$ ). El tratamiento generalmente no favorece a más del 50 % de los portadores de la hepatitis C crónica y muchos pacientes no regresaron al servicio después de la finalización del tratamiento.

**KEY WORDS:** Conventional interferon, Hepatitis C virus, Pegylated interferon, Sustained virological response, Treatment.

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