Extrahepatic Manifestations of HCV


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Extrahepatic Manifestations of HCV

• Up to 36% of patients with chronic HCV have extrahepatic manifestations
• Many are described only in case reports
• Manifestations may divided in groups based on the degree of association
Diseases with a High Degree of Association with HCV

• Mixed cryoglobulinemia (MC)
  – Purpura: cutaneous vasculitis
  – Neuropathy
  – Arthralgias, non-deforming

• Type 1 membranoproliferative glomerulonephritis (MPGN)

• Chronic fevers

• Asthenia: fatigue, weakness
Diseases with a Moderate Degree of Association with HCV

• Non-cryoglobulinemia systemic vasculitis (PAN)
• Splenic lymphoma
• B-cell non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
• Sicca syndrome
• Porphyria cutanea tarda
Diseases with a Mild Degree of Association with HCV

- Thrombocytopenia
- Type 2 diabetes mellitus
- Autoimmune thyroiditis
- Lichen planus
Mixed Cryoglobulinemia

- The highest prevalence of the strongly associated extrahepatic manifestation
- 45-90% of patients with mixed cryoglobulinemia are HCV seropositive
- Majority of Patients are asymptomatic
- Symptomatic presentation probably related to host genetics (HLA typing) and viral factors (some increased association with HCV genotype 2a)
Mebranoproliferative Glomerulonephritis

• The most common of HCV related renal diseases (others include Membranous Glomerulonephritis and Membranous Nephropathy)

• LABS: (+) HCV RNA, microscopic hematuria, renal insufficiency, decreased complement levels
Porphyria Cutanea Tarda (PCT)

- HCV found in 60% of patients with PCT
- Photosensitizing action an accumulated dermal porphyrins leading to:
  - Increased skin fragility
  - Hypertrichosis
  - Sclerodermoid like changes to affected areas
  - Hyperpigmentation
  - Scarring
  - Alopecia
Treatment considerations

• Combination HCV therapy recommended for all patients with demonstrated extrahepatic manifestations
• Additional therapies target the specific disease state
• Mixed Cryoglobulinemia – cytotoxic agents, corticosteroids, plasmapheresis
• MPGN - cytotoxic agents, corticosteroids, plasmapheresis, dialysis
• PCT – iron chelation, sun avoidance