Response to anti-HCV treatment in HIV-infected patients chronically infected with Hepatitis C.

The NVBH-SHM Hepatitis working group:
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461 HIV/HCV chronically infected patients received anti-HCV treatment. Endpoint of the study is a sustained virologic response (SVR), defined as undetectable HCV RNA levels 24 weeks after treatment was ended.

40% of the patients achieved a SVR. Although non statistically significant, SVR rates were higher in patients infected with HCV genotypes 2&3 compared to those infected with 1&4.

Monitoring of virologic response and long term side effects will remain important in the future.

Results continued
78 (16%) patients ended anti-HCV treatment within 14 weeks, 32 (7%) of these patients stopped in the first 4 weeks, which did not differ between genotypes.

For those with a known stop reason (n=20), most common stop reasons were toxicity (n=9) and virologic non-response (n=8).

During treatment, 36% of the patients had an undetectable HCV RNA at week 4, 62% at week 12, 40% reached a SVR (Figure 3).

Although not statistically significant, SVR varied between genotypes (Figure 3).

Conclusions
- HCV is cleared in less than half of the patients with a chronic HCV infection treated with a combination of peg-IFN and RBV.
- SVR is higher compared to earlier reports.
- A substantial number of patients remain unsuccessfully treated.
- Additional anti-HCV drugs are now being developed. Newly introduced HCV protease inhibitors may provide higher SVR rates.
- Monitoring the virologic response, as well as the long term side effects and toxicity of these new anti-HCV drugs and the interaction with antiviral agents will remain a challenge for the future.

Table 1: Demographic and clinical characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HCV genotype</th>
<th>Number (n,%):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>283 (61%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>239 (5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>214 (4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>63 (14%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>66 (14%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>56 (12%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 represents the demographic and clinical characteristics of patient with a chronic HCV infection who started anti-HCV treatment between 1998 and 2011.

The number of patients with a chronic HCV infection starting anti-HCV treatment increased over time (Figure 1).