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Cryoglobulinemia is associated with advanced Liver Fibrosis in chronic Hepatitis C patients

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The prevalence of mixed cryoglobulinemia (MC) has been reported to be 15-50% in chronic hepatitis C (CHC) patients. We aimed to reveal the prevalence of serum cryoglobulinemia in Taiwan population and to determine the association between presence of serum cryoglobulinemia and liver fibrosis in CHC patients with liver biopsy. We have entolled totally 1,135 treatment naïve patients retrospectively in our study. All patients received liver biopsy and the histology was diagnosed with Metavir system. Serum cryoglobulinemia precipitation, and laboratory parameters were assessed and collected. Three hundred sixty four (32%) out of 1,135 liver biopsy patients were positive for serum cryoglobulinemia. Multivariate analysis revealed that male gender, HCV RNA, platelet and advanced fibrosis (OR-1.40, 95% CI – 1.05-1.87, p=0.021) were significantly associated with the presence of cryoglobulinemia in CHC patients. The presence of serum cryoglobulinemia (OR-1.43, 95% CI – 1.04-1.96, p=0.026) was associated with advanced liver fibrosis (F3 and F4) by multivariate logistic regression analysis. We concluded that the prevalence of the presence of serum cryoglobulinemia is 32% in Taiwanese naïve CHC patients and cryoglobulinemia was associated with advanced fibrosis proven by the liver biopsy.

Biography

Chia-Yen Dai has completed his M.D., Master and PhD from Kaohsiung Medical University, Kaohsiung, Taiwan. He is the Director of Health Management Center and visiting staff of Hepatology, Internal Medicine, Kaohsiung Medical University Hospital, and the full Professor of Internal Medicine, College of Medicine, Kaohsiung Medical University. He has published more than 240 papers in reputed journals with more than 50 papers being the first author.

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