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## Elevated alpha-fetoprotein (AFP) in blood sera of young, but not of senior patients with uncertain results of antibodies to virus hepatitis C

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Although elevated serum alpha-fetoprotein (AFP) is often found in patients with chronic hepatitis C, the change in AFP level in blood sera with uncertain results of antibodies to virus hepatitis C (anti-HCV) is still unknown. The aim of this study was to determine the relation of elevated serum AFP in young men, women up to 12 weeks of pregnancy and senior patients with uncertain results of anti-HCV. A total of 198 patients blood sera were investigated for AFP level and for anti-HCV in microplate Enzyme Immunoassay (EIA) with additional using of microplate EIA with separate detection of four anti-HCV and two immunoblots. The result was interpreted in accordance to test instruction. **In group of young men** the AFP level in samples with anti-HCV (mean 12,57ME/ml) was greater than in samples without anti-HCV (4,37ME/ml,  $p=0,045$ ); in samples with uncertain results which had reactivity to anti-NS3 or anti-Core HCV only (but not to anti-NS4 only) AFP concentration (7,41ME/ml) was also increased ( $p=0,008$ ). In group of pregnant women the similar changes were observed. In senior patients without anti-HCV serum AFP (8,24ME/ml) was elevated in comparison with in the same group of younger men ( $p<0,04$ ) and didn't differ from serum AFP in other senior patients groups. Thus, in laboratory diagnostics of hepatitis C the complex of specific and biochemical markers and an age category of the patient should be taken into account.