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Assessment of the role of interleukin 17A and interleukin 17F in chronic hepatitis C virus infection in Egyptian patients

Chronic HCV infection is a major clinical and public health problem. The estimated number of infected exceeding 170 million worldwide with Egypt has the highest prevalence 14-20% with per dominate genotype 4. The host immune response plays a unique role in HCV infection. Emerging data implicate T-helper 17 cells may play a role in the pathogenesis of chronic hepatitis C infection. This study was conducted to elucidate the role of T-helper 17 cytokines, interleukin 17A and interleukin 17F in the pathogenesis of chronic HCV infection and included two groups, the first group 51 non-treated chronic HCV patients and the second group included 51 healthy blood donors as a control group. The serum levels of interleukin 17A (*IL17A*) and interleukin 17F (*IL17F*) were quantified using sandwich ELISA. The serum levels of interleukin 17A was significantly higher in chronic HCV patients group Mean (52.9±32.6 pg/ml) than in the control group (17.1±10.4 pg/ml). There was no significant difference regarding interleukin 17F between the two groups, although slightly higher in chronic HCV group (18.9±26.3 pg/ml) than the control group (14.6±6.1 pg/ml). Among the cases there was a highly significant correlation between IL 17A and viral load, duration of illness, sonography, liver enzymes and biopsy. There was weak negative correlation between *IL17F* and viral load, liver enzymes and liver biopsy. The higher serum level of interleukin 17A in chronic HCV group suggest its implication in the pathogenesis of chronic HCV infection and its positive correlation to the severity of liver injury can use it as a new marker for disease prognosis. On the other side Interleukin 17F may have a protective role.

Biography

Raghda Abd El Latief Hafez is presently working as a Professor of Medical Microbiology and Immunology, Faculty of Medicine, Zagazig University, Egypt. She was the Director of Infection Control Unit, Zagazig University Hospitals in 2015. She has obtained her Master's degree in Medicine & Surgery (MBCHB) in 1994 and PhD in Bacteriology and Immunology in 2004 from Zagazig University, Egypt. She is a Member of Egyptian Society for Medical Microbiology, Member in Egyptian Association Immunology and Member in Egyptian Society of Infection Control.

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