

## **Efficacy of velpatasvir and sofosbuvir combination therapy in chronic HCV patients**

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Chronic Hepatitis C is a prevalent infection in Pakistan. It can lead to complications like cirrhosis of liver, liver failure, hepatocellular carcinoma and death. Oral antiviral therapy has revolutionized the treatment of Hepatitis C. It can achieve eradication of HCV in the form of sustained virological response in HCV patients. We conducted a study to analyze the efficacy of Sofosbuvir, Velpatasvir combination therapy with Ribavirin except when there was a contraindication. It was a prospective single cohort study including all chronic Hepatitis C patients who underwent treatment for Chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) with Sofosbuvir (SOF) and Velpatasvir (VELPA) combination therapy with Ribavirin (Rib). All patients were more than 18 years old. 64% patients were male and 36% were females.

**Results:** 8.5 % patients were cirrhotic and all patients received Ribavirin. SVR was achieved in 115 / 117 (98.29%) patients. Among cirrhotics SVR 90 % and among non cirrhotics it was 99 %. We conclude that Sofosbuvir, Velpatasvir combination therapy with Ribavirin is an effective antiviral therapy for the treatment of chronic hepatitis C. The limitation of study is a single arm study. There was lack of resistance testing and study population was not uniform. Adverse effects were not documented. A few patients did perform fibroscan due to availability and affordability issue, so few compensated cirrhosis patients might be grouped among non-cirrhotics. The benefits of adding ribavirin was given to patients where it was not contraindicated. Furthermore record of CRF and HCC patients is not documented.

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