

## **Summary and Recommendations**

**Hepatitis C virus ( HCV ) is a major public health problem with an estimated 170 million person being infected with this agent around the World**

**( HCV ) Virus is a positive stranded RNA Virus classified as family flavivirdae, genus hepacivirus**

**Patients undergoing haemodialysis are at high risk of acquiring this blood borne pathogen, since ( HCV ) is Efficiently transmitted by the parenteral route.**

**In addition, infected patients have an increased tendency to develop chronic hepatitis and to be also a potential reservoir for its transmission, possibly contributing to the nosocomial spread of ( HCV ) in dialysis centers and explaining the high prevalence of ( HCV ) infection among Haemodialysis patients**

**Hepatitis C Virus ( HCV ) prevalence differs among Haemodialysis units according to their geographical location, health care procedure, Socioeconomic Factor, hygiene, sterilization of equipment, repeated blood transfusion and the number of years on dialysis**

**( HCV ) causes both acute & chronic hepatitis. So the detection of acute ( HCV ) infection was carried out through monthly ( ALT ) & Anti ( HCV ) markers observation or detection of the virus by PCR .**

**Elevation in serum ( ALT ) Level often precede Anti ( HCV ) seroconversion. It should be noted that antibody in haemodialysis patient makes slower appearance than in non haemodialysis patient & serconversion may depend on each patient response, so diagnosis of (**

**HCV ) infection also can be made by qualitatively detecting ( HCV ) RNA using gene Amplification techniques e.g ( PCR )**

**Numbers of studies have evaluated interferon for the treatment of chronic hepatitis in patient with end – stage renal diseases .**

**A course of alpha interferon in a dose of 3 million units given three times weekly lead to fall of ( ALT ) Levels into normal range in 62% to 100% of patients and clearance of ( HCV ) RNA in 62% to 77% as detected by P.C.R .**

**But low sustained Virologic response rates and side effect of Interferon leading to discontinuation of therapy in 30% to 40% of patients and dose reduction in a further 26% to 67% of patients**

**Recommendations for preventing transmission of ( HCV ) infection among haemodialysis units include :-**

- 1- Reeducation of the existing staff members regarding recommended infection control practice for haemodialysis**
- 2- All the equipment used on patients with positive serology such as stethoscope, sphygmomanometer were separated .**
- 3- haemodialysis machines were sterilized after each session of dialysis with persteril 3,5{ Peracetic acid 3,5% } and externally cleaned with soap and water**
- 4- The health – care worker from the unit were examined for Anti ( HCV ) markers .**