FEATURES AND TREATMENT OF HEPATITIS C IN CHILDREN

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Actuality. Forecast of viral hepatitis C in children are generally more favorable than in adults, however, in 4-6 % of children with chronic infection with hepatitis C, there are signs of significant fibrosis or cirrhosis on liver biopsy.

The aim. Start multicenter study comparing only associated interferon and ribavirin in the treatment of chronic hepatitis C in children.

Material and methods. Factors that are important for the choice of treatment. The presence of virus's RNA in the blood (serum) indicates ongoing active infection with virus reproduction. HCV genotype, or strain of the virus is determined by a blood test. Some genotypes of HCV, such as types 2 and 3, are easier to cure than the prevalent genotype 1. Liver enzymes aspartate - aminotransferase (AST) and alanine - aminotransferase (ALT) . A liver biopsy.
Interferon is administered as a subcutaneous injection three times per week and ribavirin - orally on a daily basis throughout the year. This combination antiviral studied in several clinical trials in children.

Results and discussion. In children with 24 weeks of treatment there was a reduction of RNA, at least 100 times, were treated for 48 weeks. Treatment was stopped after 24 weeks those who had not received early virological response. Success (SVR), defined as undetectable level RNA of the virus, circulating in the blood (< 100 copies / mL) 24 weeks after completion of treatment. Ultimately, 34 of the 70 children who started treatment (49%) was obtained stable response. Resistant response was observed in 29 of 43 children (67%) treated for at least 38 weeks, and 80% received doses of interferon and ribavirin, and only 5 of the 27 other children (19%). The probability of cure is 53%, 93%, 93% and 80% of children with genotypes 1, 2, 3 and 4 hepatitis C virus, respectively.

Conclusions. In this way, a combination of interferon alpha and ribavirin has appeared at least as safe and effective in children as in adults with chronic hepatitis C.