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PREVALENCE OF ANEMIA IN PATIENTS WITH HEPATITIS C ON RIBAVIRIN COMBINED THERAPY AT RWANDA MILITARY HOSPITAL.

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ABSTRACT

Viral hepatitis is an infection affecting the liver and causing its inflammation due to viruses mostly hepatitis B and C viruses. Hepatitis C virus infection is a serious global health issue leading to morbidity and mortality worldwide. Anemia can occur because the anti-HCV drug mostly ribavirin which can cause the red blood cells prematuraly die. To assess anemia, hemoglobin levels in blood samples are measured and levels less than 11 g/dl for women and less than 12 g/dl for mens are considered to be anemia but it depends with the guidelines of the hospital. This study entitled: "prevalence of anemia in hepatitis c patients on ribavirin combined therapy at Rwanda Military Hospital" was a retrospective study carried out from November to December 2017. The main objective was to know the prevalence of anemia in HCV patients on combined ribavirin therapy. A total of 256 patients were eligible in the research. Anemia in harvoni and combined ribavirin therapy patients were identified by searching in open clinic system their hemoglobin. The results for patients on harvoni and combined ribavirin therapy were statistically analyzed using SPSS 20. The results have showed that the prevalence of anemia in patients who took ribavirin combined therapywas high and the anemia in patients who took harvoni were lower than that of patients who took combined ribavirin therapy. The statistics showed that anemia prevalence for combined ribavirin therapy was higher than that of Harvoni with 28.1% and 0.74% respectively. Gender were the only significant demographic characteristic for patients on harvoni (Gender, p=0.012). In conclusion harvoni had no anemic effects therefore it represented a significant therapeutic advancement for the treatement of HCV infection than combined ribavirin. Education of the population about HCV infection were urgently recommended in order to prevent HCV infection and increasing the availibility of harvoni treatement by reducing the prices were recommended to the Ministry of health.

KEYWORDS: *Hepatitis C, Ribavirin Therapy, Anemia*