

THE MULTIFUNCTIONAL ROLE OF THE MARKERS IN TYPE B AND C VIRAL HEPATITIS (REPORT)

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In a first stage the notion "marker" had a relatively restricted contents; It compromised especially that group of methods which full-filled the diagnostical exigence, because this objective was profoundly defficiant from a virosological and clinical point of view. Afterwards, the modern data that were obtained atributed a larger contents to the notion of immunological marker, so that according to the present acception we can include in this notion, all direct and indirect tests utilized either in clinical practice or only in the highly specialized research laboratories. Their function diversified as the problems related to the viral hepatitis become more and more complex :

- The function of the immunological markers in the identification of the type of hepatitis virus (HAV, HBV and its antigenical structures, HDV, delta, H-NANB-V and its variants);
- The role of the markers in the definition of the physiopatological and immunopathogenetical mechanisms, characteristic for the various etiological forms of hepatitis;
- The utilization of the immunological markers that have a role in the establishment of the geographical distribution of the hepatitis viruses, of the socioecological-community condition and implicit of the options for the various prophylactical means;
- The implication of the immunological markers in defining the clinical and prognostical setting;
- The utilization of the markers in the evaluation of the different types of vaccines;
- The screening tests performed with the aid of the markers in order to appreciate the levels of efficiency of the antiviral medication (including the treatment with interferon).

In the global structure of the report, the following elements are included:

- The immunological markers in the HBV infection:
 - In various clinical conditions and after vaccination against HBV;

- In clinical HBs positive infection considered primary autolimiting infection;

- In the infection without a detectable HBsAg in the serum;

- In persistent infections associated with positive or negative

HBsAg;

- In infections evolving to hepatocellular carcinoma;

- In the HBV infection associated with HIV infection;

• Immunological markers in the pathogenesis of type B viral hepatitis:

- The role of the virus;

- The role of the immunopathogenetical mechanism;

• The evaluation by means of the markers of the prophylactic and therapeutical methods:

- Corticosteroids, Interferon and adeninearabinoside, passive immunization and preexposure, active immunization pre-exposure, immunization post-exposure to the virus;

• The immunological markers in the infection with HDV (delta):

- For the identification and characterization of the virus;

- Role in the study of the pathogenesis of HVD infection;

• The role of the markers in type C viral hepatitis (due to HCV):

- Markers with a role in the diagnosis and in the monitoring of the clinical and evolutive pattern of the disease;

- Markers having a role in the establishment of the particular clinical types;

- Markers of the association with other entities: with HBV, with alcoholic hepatitis, with autoimmune hepatitis, with HIV infection and with renal transplantation;

- The association with the hystocompatibility antigens.