

INTERFERON IN THE TREATMENT OF TYPE B, C AND D VIRAL HEPATITIS (PRELIMINARY RESULTS)

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The interferons, proteic molecules produced by eucariotic cells in response to various stimuli, have a broad spectrum of activities and biological functions, i.e. immunomodulating properties, antiviral and antiproliferative capacities and the induction of cellular deficiency.

Presently, in clinical practice, three types of alpha interferon and two types of beta interferon, obtained by stimulation of lymphoblastic cell lines and human leukocytes respectively, are utilized. The antiviral and immunomodulating activities of alpha interferon constituted the reasons indicating its possible benefit in the treatment of chronic viral hepatitis. In the present study we discuss 7 patients treated with alpha interferon in the period 1993-1994 and followed up since in our clinic. We studied the evolution of the clinical and biochemical parameters, together with that of the markers for the infection with HBV, HCV and HDV. The interferon was administered subcutaneously thrice a week during an interval of 2 to 6 months, according to the clinical type of viral hepatitis. The short course of treatment was used in prolonged type B hepatitis with relapses (2 months) and the long one was given to patients with chronic type B hepatitis and chronic type B plus D hepatitis. One patient with chronic type C hepatitis received interferon alpha therapy proved to be beneficial in 4 of the 7 cases studied. These results indicate further utilisation of interferon alpha therapy, correlated with anatomopathological examinations, for a better assessment of its efficiency.