

## **Reversal of liver damage among HCV infected persons with advanced liver disease: Two-year follow-up from the HCV elimination program, Georgia.**

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**Background and Aims:** Limited data are available on the impact of treatment among HCV patients with advanced liver fibrosis treated with Direct Acting Antivirals (DAAs). The goal of the study is to assess the long-term health outcome among patients with advanced liver fibrosis treated with DAAs after achieving sustained viral response (SVR). We report on two years of data.

**Methods:** Patients were recruited from four centers that provide care and treatment services for the largest number of patients under the HCV elimination program in Georgia. Eligibility criteria for enrollment in the cohort includes: treated with DAAs in Georgia through the HCV elimination program; having advanced liver fibrosis level by elastography ( $\geq$ F3) or FIB4 score ( $\geq$ 3.25); beginning treatment during May - December 2015; and achieving SVR at week 24 post treatment. We compared baseline and post treatment changes in fibrosis level (in kpa or FIB4 score), ALT, AST, platelet count (PLT), spleen size and existence of ascites among enrolled patients.

**Results:** 420 patients who were recruited for the cohort met the eligibility criteria. Mean age of participants was 52 years (range 30-82) and the majority 363/420 (86%) were male. The mean fibrosis level among those measured by elastography decreased significantly (Mean difference 20.6 kpa, p.05). Among those with ascites at baseline (n=9), 7 (77%) experienced resolution, while among the 412 without ascites at baseline 7 (1.7%) were noted to have ascites during the follow-up examination.

**Conclusions:** Significant improvement of clinical and laboratory parameters was observed 2 years after treatment completion among patients with advanced liver fibrosis treated with DAAs and achieving SVR.