Hepatitis C Infected Organs and Transplant Recipients

At the 2019 Liver Meeting, medical professionals and liver disease specialists reported important results from a study done on hepatitis C infected organs and transplant recipients.

December 4, 2019 By Connie M. Welch

Hope for Transplant Patients

Jordon J. Feld, MD, MPH, FAASLD, reported important findings providing hope for transplant patients when opting to receive organs from a hepatitis C infected donor.

A recent study showed when non-hepatitis C infected transplant patients received a transplant with hepatitis C infected organs, a combination treatment with ezetimibe and direct-acting antiviral therapy, either prevented or rapidly cured hepatitis C.

The study included hepatitis C infected organs for 20 transplant recipients needing either lung, heart, kidney, or kidney-pancreas organs.

Combination Treatment

The study tested the possibility of preventing hepatitis C infection in transplant recipients who were given a combination treatment using Mavyret (glecaprevir/pibrentasvir 300/120mg) with ezetimibe 10 mg, 6 to 12 hours before transplantation and then taking the combination treatment daily for 1-week post-transplant.

Dr. Feld explained, “Ezetimibe is a cholesterol-lowering drug that is approved and quite safe, but also happens to be a ligand … for one of the entry factors that hepatitis C uses to enter hepatocytes (liver cells).

Study Conclusion

In the study, of the 20 transplant patients who received hepatitis C infected organs, for 13 patients, four developed quantifiable hepatitis C virus detected, the combination treatment provided showed hepatitis C declined rapidly and was non-detected by day 4.

Of six other patients, hepatitis C was detectable but unquantifiable at day 1 of post-transplant but with combination treatment provided, hepatitis C was undetected by day 2 in 5 of the patients and by day 4 in one patient.

For all transplant recipients in the study, the hepatitis C virus declined rapidly and was non-detected by day 4. Dr. Feld also reported no relapses to date with follow-up ranging up to 12.1 weeks.

The study concluded the combination treatment was well-tolerated with no serious adverse effects related to treatment. All patients showed non-detected for hepatitis C infection.

The Liver Meeting is made up of medical professionals associated with the AASLD (American Association for the Study of Liver Disease).

Reference: Feld JJ. Abstract 0038. Presented at: The Liver Meeting; Nov 7-12, 2019; Boston. Healio; Combination therapy prevents HCV infection in non-viremic organ recipients/Nov 10, 2019/Jordon J. Feld.

Disclosure: Feld reports receiving grant or research support, and serving as a consultant for Abbott, AbbVie, Enanta, Gilead, Janssen, Merck, and Roche.

This entry was originally published in Life Beyond Hep C, and is reprinted with permission.

© 2026 Smart + Strong All Rights Reserved.
http://beta.docker.hepmag.com/blog/hepatitis-c-infected-organs-transplant-recipients