

Response to Real life Egyptian experience of efficacy / safety of Simeprevir\ Sofosbuvir in HCV genotype IV

Dear sir,

While we agree that HIV co-infection has important implications on how patients with chronic HCV would respond to treatment, the number of HIV/HCV co-infected patients in our study was statistically negligible (1/6211). This negligible number reflects the low prevalence of HIV in Egypt. The estimated number of new infections of HIV in Egypt was only 1500 cases in the 2015 morbidity report published by WHO¹; thus, HIV/HCV co-infection is also uncommon. Fouad et al.² reported a prevalence of 0.64% (12/1852) of HIV/HCV co-infection in their cohort of HCV infected patients. For HIV screening to be cost effective in low prevalence country like Egypt, the national committee for control of viral hepatitis applies the protocol of HIV screening only for high-risk patients, those who use illicit drugs. In our real-life cohort, only 5/6211 patients used illicit drugs, and only one patient tested positive for HIV.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflict of interest.

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2. Fouad R, Shaker O, Abdel Hafez H, et al. HIV Prevalence among HCV Egyptian Infected Patients and Its Impact on the Result of HCV Treatment. *Adv Infect Dis*. 2013;3:71-77.