Prevalence of hepatic steatosis and associated factors in Iranian patients with chronic hepatitis C

Vahdat Poortahmasebi, Mohammad Sajad Emami Aleagha, Mehdi Amiri, Mostafa Qorbani, Mohammad Farahmand, Hamid Asayesh, Seyed Moayed Alavian

Abstract

**Background:** Hepatic steatosis is commonly observed in patients with chronic hepatitis C (CHC). Many studies indicate a relationship between steatosis and fibrosis progression. The aim of this study was to analyze the prevalence of hepatic steatosis and related factors in Iranian CHC patients.

**Methods:** One hundred and fifteen consecutive patients with CHC were enrolled which were treatment-naïve. The patients were divided into groups with and without steatosis according to the result of liver biopsy (58.3% and 41.7%, respectively). Demographic, histological, biochemical and virological factors were examined and compared in all patients.

**Results:** In terms of host factors, body mass index (BMI), triglyceride, fasting blood glucose (FBG), necroinflammatory activity and severity in fibrosis of CHC patients with steatosis was significantly higher than the patients without steatosis. Of viral factors, HCV viral load was not significantly altered in patients with steatosis. Moreover, HCV genotypes did not meet such association. Using multivariate regression analysis, parameters of BMI values, FBG level and stage of fibrosis were independently associated with steatosis.

**Conclusion:** Our data indicate that CHC patients are more susceptible to development of hepatic steatosis. Based on our results, grade of steatosis appears to be associated with hepatic fibrosis progression rate in CHC patients.

**Keywords:** Chronic hepatitis C, Steatosis, Fibrosis, Necroinflammatory activity.

Cite this article as: Poortahmasebi V, Emami Aleagha MS, Amiri M, Qorbani M, Farahmand M, Asayesh H, Alavian SM. Prevalence of hepatic steatosis and associated factors in Iranian patients with chronic hepatitis C. Med J Islam Repub Iran 2016 (7 February). Vol. 30:322.

Introduction

Hepatitis C virus (HCV) is a major and global public health problem. An estimated 13-170 million people are infected worldwide with one of the six major genotype variants that are specific for different geographical locations. According to the recent studies, 1a is the most common genotype of HCV in Iran (1,2). Approximately 75 to 85% of infected individuals develop a chronic hepatitis C (CHC) infection, which among this 1 to 5% will develop hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) (1,3).

Fatty liver, or hepatic steatosis (HS), which is an increased fat deposition in the liver, has been recognized as a significant...
cause of cirrhosis (4,5). Hepatic steatosis may be independently associated with obesity, high alcohol consumption, type II diabetes, and hyperlipidemia. Steatosis affects 10-24% of the general population in various countries and in Iranians varies from 2.9% to 7.1% (6-8). Hepatic steatosis is a frequent histological feature in patients with CHC. The overall prevalence of steatosis in patients with CHC infection is between 30 and 70% (9-12). Hepatic steatosis in CHC patients associates with obesity, disorder of fat metabolism, insulin resistance and HCV 3a genotype (13). Furthermore, HS has been shown to be a risk factor for liver disease progression and to interfere with anti-viral treatment (14,15). Viral effects include a decrease of adiponectin levels, and changes to hepatic lipid metabolism that lead to triglyceride accumulation (16).

Many studies have reported a correlation between steatosis and advanced hepatic fibrosis in CHC patients (14,17-19). These Clinical investigations have shown that superimposed steatosis can potentially accelerate hepatic fibrosis in HCV infected patients. The scope of this study was to determine the prevalence of hepatic steatosis and risk factors for its presence in Iranian patients with biopsy-proven chronic hepatitis C.

Methods

One hundred and fifteen consecutive CHC patients were enrolled in the Iran Hepatitis Network and Digestive Disease center, Tehran from May 2012 to March 2014. Liver biopsies were performed on all patients who were proven to have CHC. They had no evidence of other liver disease; alcohol consumers (exceeding 20 g per day). The diagnosis of CHC was made based on the following criteria: (1) abnormal serum aminotransferase levels for at least six months; (2) positive test for anti-HCV antibodies; (3) detectable circulating HCV RNA; and (4) liver biopsy consistent with the diagnosis of CHC. None of the patients had undergone previous antiviral treatment. The body mass index (BMI) from all patients was calculated according to the formula of weight (kg) divided by the square of height (m²) (20). The study was approved by the Local Committee of Ethics and conformed to the ethical guidelines of the Iran Hepatitis Network.

Liver histopathology

Liver biopsy was performed on all patients (stained with H&E, Masson’s trichrome, and Reticulin) before the consideration of therapy against HCV. The grade of hepatic necroinflammatory changes was classified according to the Knodell histological activity index (HAI, 0-18) score system (21); and the fibrosis stage was set according to the Ishak scoring system (22) on a scale 0–6, corresponding to no fibrosis (0), mild (1-2), moderate (3-4), and severe or cirrhosis (5-6). Fibrosis was considered advanced in cases with staging Ishak ≥3. Hepatic steatosis was graded according to the Brunt classification (23): 0, no steatosis; 1, less than 33% of hepatocytes affected; 2, 33% to 66% of hepatocytes affected; 3, more than 66% of hepatocytes affected. Histopathologic factors were evaluated by an expert pathologist, who was blind in relation to samples.

Laboratory assessment

The presence of anti-HCV was tested using third generation enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA, ORTHO HCV 3.0 ELISA, Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics, Raritan, NJ) kits. Liver injury biomarkers, including alanine aminotransferase (ALT), aspartate aminotransferase (AST), alkaline phosphatase (ALP), prothrombin time (PT), total bilirubin (TBIL), direct bilirubin (DBIL), as well as cholesterol (CHOL), triglyceride (TG) fasting blood glucose (FBG), uric acid (UA) and hemoglobin (Hb) levels were performed on an autoanalyzer (Selecta, Germany) using com-
commercial kits. RT-PCR assays were performed using a commercially available kit for the quantification of serum HCV-RNA (CobasAmplicor, Roche Molecular Diagnostic System, Branchburg, NJ, USA); they were expressed in IU/ml (1 IU/ml = 3.4 copies/ml). HCV genotyping was also determined using Versant HCV genotype assay (LiPA, Bayer).

Statistical analysis
All results were expressed as mean (±SD), median (range), or number (percentage). The statistical tests used were Student’s t-test, Mann-Whitney U test, chi-squared test and Fisher’s exact test. Multiple logistic regression model was used to assess association of independent variables with hepatic steatosis. Data were analyzed with the Statistical Program for Social Sciences (SPSS-16, SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA). A P-value <0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Results
Patient characteristics
Our study included 115 adult patients diagnosed with CHC. The general feature (characteristics and laboratory data) and histological finding for each patient are summarized in Table 1 and 2, respectively. We divided all patients into two groups, with and without steatosis, based on the findings of the liver biopsy samples. There were 68 patients (58.3%) with steatosis and 47 patients (41.7%) without steatosis.

The mean (SD) age of all patients was 41.67 (12.37) years (range: 15-73 years). They were predominantly males (80%), and mean BMI (SD) was 25.06 (4.61). In the hepatosteatosis group, age (44.01 ± 11.47 vs. 38.29 ± 12.97, p=0.014) and BMI (26.33 ± 4.82 vs. 23.23 ± 3.63, p<0.001) were significantly higher as compared to the group without hepatosteatosis. However, there was no significant difference in gender between both groups (p>0.05). Univariate analyses between groups according to clinical and histological features are provided in Table 3.

Laboratory and virological data
CHC patients with steatosis showed significantly higher levels of total TG, FBG
Hepatic steatosis in patients with chronic hepatitis C

4 Med J Islam Repub Iran 2016 (7 February). Vol. 30:322.

and ALT than those without steatosis (p<0.05). However, the AST, ALP, UA, PT, TBIL, DBIL and Hb were not significantly different between both groups (p>0.05). There was no significant association between steatosis and HCV viral load (Mann-Whitney p=0.987). All patients took genotyping tests, which determined that 87 (75.7%) patients were genotype 1, 16 (13.9%) were genotype 3a and it was unclassified in 12 (10.4%) patients. Nevertheless, the presence of steatosis showed no statistical differences among groups with different HCV genotypes and patients with or without steatosis (Table 3).

Histological data

The 115 patients admitted into the study

| Parameter | Steatosis (+) | Steatosis (-) | P |
|-----------|--------------|---------------|---|
| Male, n (%) | 51 (55.4) | 41 (44.6) | 0.154 |
| Female, n (%) | 17 (73.9) | 6 (26.1) | |
| Age (years) | 44.01±11.47 | 38.29±12.97 | 0.014 |
| BMI (kg/m²), n (%) | 26.33±4.82 | 23.23±3.63 | <0.001 |
| <25 | 26 (38.2) | 31 (66) | 0.004 |
| ≥25 | 42 (61.8) | 16 (34) | |
| CHOL (mg/dL) | 164.45±41.28 | 154.27±39.05 | 0.195 |
| TG (mg/dL) | 143.10±68.38 | 111.86±44.88 | 0.008 |
| FBG (mg/dL) | 104.67±41.22 | 87.97±15.80 | 0.010 |
| UA (mg/dL) | 6.01±1.57 | 5.57±1.46 | 0.182 |
| ALT (IU/L) | 84.05±54.50 | 64.19±53.68 | 0.029 |
| AST (IU/L) | 65.26±41.85 | 47.67±41.06 | 0.176 |
| ALP (IU/L) | 228.91±104.03 | 203.34±68.38 | 0.232 |
| PT (second) | 13.07±0.94 | 13.03±0.91 | 0.806 |
| TBIL (mg/dL) | 1.14±0.71 | 1.21±0.76 | 0.637 |
| DBIL (mg/dL) | 0.32±0.28 | 0.29±0.14 | 0.506 |
| Hb (g/dL) | 14.63±2.18 | 14.02±2.50 | 0.175 |
| Viral load log (IU/ml) | 707500 (range: 200-4.05×10⁶) | 604500 (rang: 1600-6×10⁶) | 0.987 |
| HAI score, n (%) | 28 (41.2) | 29 (41.7) | 0.038 |
| score < 7 | 40 (58.8) | 18 (38.3) | |
| score ≥ 7 | 33 (48.5) | 33 (70.2) | 0.020 |
| Fibrosis, n (%) | 35 (51.5) | 14 (29.8) | |
| Stage < 3 | 52 (76.5) | 35 (74.5) | 0.343 |
| Stage ≥ 3 | 11 (16.2) | 5 (10.6) | |
| Genotype, n (%) | 5 (7.3) | 7 (14.9) | |

Data are presented as the number of patients (%) or the mean±standard deviation. BMI: body mass index, CHOL: cholesterol, TG: triglyceride, FBG: fasting blood glucose, UA: uric acid, ALT: alanine aminotransferase, AST: aspartate aminotransferase, ALP: alkaline phosphatase, PT: prothrombin time, TBIL: total bilirubin, DBIL: direct bilirubin, Hb: hemoglobin

Table 2. Histological characteristics of the patients

| Parameter | Patients with CHC (n = 115) | % |
|-----------|-----------------------------|---|
| HAI score | 0-3 | 19 | 16.5 |
| | 4-8 | 65 | 56.5 |
| | 9-12 | 26 | 22.6 |
| | 13-18 | 5 | 4.4 |
| Stage of fibrosis | 0 | 19 | 16.5 |
| | 1-2 | 51 | 44.3 |
| | 3-4 | 31 | 27 |
| | 5-6 | 14 | 12.2 |
| Steatosis | Absent (0) | 48 | 41.7 |
| | Mild (<33%) | 45 | 39.1 |
| | Moderate (3-66%) | 19 | 16.5 |
| | Severe (>66%) | 3 | 2.6 |

Data are presented as the number of patients (%). CHC: chronic hepatitis C; HAI: histological activity index.

Table 3. Comparison of groups according to laboratory and histopathological features (univariate analysis).
Table 4. Association of independent variables with hepatic steatosis in logistic regression model (n=115).

| Independent Variable | Odds Ratio | Lower to Upper 95% CI | P    |
|----------------------|------------|------------------------|------|
| FBG (mg/dL)          | 1.031      | 0.998-1.066            | 0.065|
| BMI (kg/m²)          | 1.227      | 1.068-1.409            | 0.004|
| Fibrosis             | 4.145      | 1.295-13.273           | 0.017|

FBG: fasting blood glucose, BMI: body mass index

were subdivided into four groups (Table 2): without steatosis in 48 (41.7%) patients, mild in 45 (39.1%), moderate in 19 (16.5%), and severe in 3 (2.6%). Considering the HAI score, as it is shown in Table 3, there was a significant association between patients with and without steatosis in terms of liver necroinflammation. Histologically, 70 (60.8%) had CHC with stage 0-2 fibrosis, while 31 (27%) and 14 (12.2%) had stage 3-4 and 5-6 fibrosis, respectively. However, significant associations were found between both groups in terms of Ishak biopsy results for the stages of liver fibrosis.

The final multiple logistic regression model for predictors of Brunt steatosis is shown in Table 4. The independent predictors of hepatic steatosis only included FBG (odds ratio [OR]: 1.031, 95% confidence interval [CI]: 0.998–1.066, p=0.065), BMI (OR: 1.227, 95% CI: 1.068–1.409, p=0.004) and fibrosis (OR: 4.145, 95% CI: 1.295–13.273, p=0.017).

Variables associated with hepatic fibrosis: predictors of fibrosis

Forty-nine out of 115 patients (42.6%) suffered from advanced fibrosis (stage>3), while 66 patients (57.4%) indicated a stage of fibrosis 3 or lower. Using the univariate analysis (results not shown), patients with older age (p=0.024), higher AST (p=0.001), higher HAI score (p<0.001) and the presence of hepatic steatosis (p=0.023) were significantly associated with clinically advanced fibrosis. There were no significant difference between genotypes’ frequencies (0.081) and HCV-RNA titer (p=0.425) and concomitantly those with and without significant fibrosis. There was no correlation with gender (p=0.350), BMI (p=0.540), CHOL (p=0.943), UA (p=0.983), TG (p=0.506), FBG (p=0.238), ALT (p=0.404), ALP (p=0.937), PT (p=0.149), TBIL (p=0.257), DIBL (p=0.277) and Hb (p=0.443).

The independent predictors of hepatic fibrosis based on a multivariate analysis, only included AST (OR: 1.016, 95% CI: 1.032–1.047, p=0.048) and HAI score (OR: 6.531, 95% CI: 2.256–18.904, p=0.001).

Discussion

Interactions between chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) and hepatic steatosis have been strongly noticed (24,25). The purpose of this study was to study the effect of chronic HCV infection on the steatosis among Iranian patients undergoing liver biopsy. Previous studies showed that hepatic steatosis is a common phenomenon in CHC patients (17,26,27). In the patients with biopsy-proven CHC, mainly mild to moderate steatosis was present in 58.3% of the patients. This prevalence is similar to that previously reported in general population (11,28,29). In chronic hepatitis B (CHB) patients, the reported frequency of hepatic steatosis ranges from 27 to 51%, which is lower than that reported for CHC (30,31). In a previous study performed by our group, the prevalence of steatosis in CHB was evaluated. The result showed steatosis was present in 44% of Iranian CHB patients (32).

In the present study, we represent that BMI is significantly associated with steatosis. Furthermore, multivariate analysis confirmed that this association was independent of FBG and hepatic fibrosis. In addition, BMI was also found associated independently with steatosis by other studies (24,33). Initial studies showed that among patients with non-3 genotype, steatosis is associated with BMI. However, this finding did not support by our study (17,19,34).
In this study, there was no link between cholesterol level and the presence of steatosis. Although this figure is similar to that previously reported in the literatures (19,33), but some studies show that steatosis is associated with high cholesterol level (27). However, patients in the steatosis group had significantly higher TG and FBG levels than the non-steatosis group (p<0.05).

The results of our study showed that there is a relationship between age and hepatic steatosis and consequently CHC patients with steatosis are older than patients without steatosis. This result is similar to findings by Leandro et al. (14), but contrary to the findings of Hsieh et al. (33) and Hu et al. (35). Concomitantly, in our study, statistical relationship was found between age and the progression of hepatic fibrosis (14,19,33). Our findings showed that older age could be considered as a high risk factor for both hepatic steatosis and fibrosis.

Previous studies have shown that the prevalence of hepatic steatosis in patients with CHC genotype 3a is stronger than patients with other genotypes, and this genotype may be an independent predictor of steatosis (36-38). This suggests that viral factors may lead to altered hepatocyte lipid metabolism. The reason, which is proposed for this finding is that the CHC genotype 3 core protein induces oxidative damages, which in turn leads to progression of steatosis. A study conducted by Kumar et al. showed that treatment of patients with genotype 3 HCV effectively reduces hepatic steatosis (39). In the current study, the genotypes of the virus were determined, but no correlation was observed between HCV genotype and the presence of steatosis. The possible reason for this contradiction is that our sample size was not large enough. A relatively large group of patients is required in order to determine the type of relationship between CHC genotype and steatosis progression. In our study, the severity of steatosis was not correlated with high serum HCV-RNA level. The other studies also support our findings (19,33,40,41).

Our findings revealed that virological determinants play a minor role in hepatic steatosis in Iranian CHC patients, and that metabolic factors are important for this condition. Interestingly, studies on hepatitis B virus have shown that the presence of steatosis is associated with lower level of HBV-DNA (42).

In our study, hepatic steatosis was significantly and independently associated with fibrosis. Several studies have demonstrated an association between steatosis and progression of liver fibrosis (17,40). The main reason, which can be expressed for the increased fibrosis in the presence of steatosis, is that ALT levels and necroinflammatory activity are higher in CHC patients with steatosis. It is possible that the liver injury biomarkers lead to progression of fibrosis by increasing the grade of steatosis (17,24,35). The results of this study revealed that the aforementioned factors in patients with steatosis were higher than patients without steatosis. However, some studies do not support the finding (18,33,43).

In the present study, we have observed that the severity of liver fibrosis is independently associated with the presence of hepatic steatosis. However, the assessment of the relationship between steatosis and fibrosis stage, is not a reliable cross sectional-study and to clarify further, analytical studies such as cohort or case-control is needed.

**Conclusion**

Taken together, the present study revealed that a chronic HCV patient is a major risk factor for hepatic steatosis. Although virological factors play no major role in hepatic steatosis, metabolic factors as well as liver histological findings seem to play important role in determining the severity of steatosis in CHC patients. In our study, steatosis in CHC patients was found to be associated with the severity of fibrosis.
Acknowledgements
This research has been supported by Tehran University of Medical Sciences & Health Services grant (No. 19817-61-04-91). Authors would like to thank Tehran University of Medical Sciences and Iran Hepatitis Network and Digestive Disease center for their cooperation in the study.

References
1. Casey LC, Lee WM. Hepatitis C virus therapy update 2013. Current opinion in gastroenterology 2013;29(3):243-9.
2. Samimi-Rad K, Nasiri Toosi M, Masoudi-Nejad A, Najafi A, Rahimnia R, Asgari F, et al. Molecular epidemiology of hepatitis C virus among injection drug users in Iran: a slight change in prevalence of HCV genotypes over time. Archives of virology 2012;157(10):1959-65.
3. Chen SL, Morgan TR. The natural history of hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection. International journal of medical sciences 2006;3(2):47-52.
4. Sherlock S. Acute fatty liver of pregnancy and the microvesicular fat diseases. Gut 1983;24(4):265-9.
5. Marchesini G, Bugianesi E, Forlani G, Cerrelli F, Lenzi M, Manini R, et al. Nonalcoholic fatty liver, steatohepatitis, and the metabolic syndrome. Hepatology 2003;37(4):917-23.
6. Sass DA, Chang P, Chopra KB. Nonalcoholic fatty liver disease: a clinical review. Digestive diseases and sciences 2005;50(1):171-80.
7. Alaviani SM, Mohammad-Alizadeh AH, Esna-Ashari F, Ardalan G, Hajarizadeh B. Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease prevalence among school-aged children and adolescents in Iran and its association with biochemical and anthropometric measures. Liver international : official journal of the International Association for the Study of the Liver for the Study of the Liver 2009;29(2):159-63.
8. Bagheri Lankarani K, Ghaffarpasand F, Mahmoodi M, Lotfi M, Zamiri N, Heydari ST, et al. Non Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease in Southern Iran: A Population Based Study. Hepat Mon 2013; 13(5):e9248.
9. Scheuer PJ, Ashrafzadeh P, Sherlock S, Brown D, Dusheiko GM. The pathology of hepatitis C. Hepatology 1992;15(4):567-71.
10. Bach N, Thung SN, Schaffner F. The histological features of chronic hepatitis C and autoimmune chronic hepatitis: a comparative analysis. Hepatology 1992;15(4):572-7.
11. Lefkowitz JH, Schiff ER, Davis GL, Perrillo RP, Lindsay K, Bodenheimer Jr HC, et al. Pathological diagnosis of chronic hepatitis C: a multicenter comparative study with chronic hepatitis B. The Hepatitis Interventional Therapy Group. Gastroenterology 1993;104(2):595-603.
12. Czaja AJ, Carpenter HA. Sensitivity, specificity, and predictability of biopsy interpretations in chronic hepatitis. Gastroenterology 1993;105(6):1824-32.
13. Bondini S, Younossi ZM. Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and hepatitis C infection. Minerva gastroenterologica e dietologica 2006;52(2):135-43.
14. Leandro G, Mangia A, Hui J, Fabris P, Rubbia-Brandt L, Colloredo G, et al. Relationship between steatosis, inflammation, and fibrosis in chronic hepatitis C: a meta-analysis of individual patient data. Gastroenterology 2006;130(6):1636-42.
15. Soresi M, Tripi S, Franco V, Giannitrapani L, Alessandri A, Rappa F, et al. Impact of liver steatosis on the antiviral response in the hepatitis C virus-associated chronic hepatitis. Liver international : official journal of the International Association for the Study of the Liver 2006; 26(9):1119-25.
16. Durante-Mangoni E, Zampino R, Marrone A, Tripodi MF, Rinaldi L, Restivo L, et al. Hepatic steatosis and insulin resistance are associated with serum imbalance of adiponectin/tumour necrosis factor-alpha in chronic hepatitis C patients. Alimentary pharmacology & therapeutics 2006; 24(9):1349-57.
17. Adinolfi LE, Gambardella M, Andreana A, Tripodi MF, Uitli R, Raggiiero G. Steatosis accelerates the progression of liver damage of chronic hepatitis C patients and correlates with specific HCV genotype and visceral obesity. Hepatology 2001;33(6):1358-64.
18. Giannini E, Cerpa P, Botta F, Fasoli A, Romagnoli P, Cresta E, et al. Steatosis and biliary duct damage in chronic hepatitis C: distribution and relationships in a group of Northern Italian patients. Liver 1999;19(5):432-7.
19. Monto A, Alonzo J, Watson JJ, Grunfeld C, Wright TL. Steatosis in chronic hepatitis C: relative contributions of obesity, diabetes mellitus, and alcohol. Hepatology 2002;36(3):729-36.
20. Yamaki K, Rimmer JH, Lowry BD, Vogel LC. Prevalence of obesity-related chronic health conditions in overweight adolescents with disabilities. Research in developmental disabilities 2011; 32(1):280-8.
21. Knodell RG, Ishak KG, Black WC, Chen TS, Craig R, Kaplowitz N, et al. Formulation and application of a numerical scoring system for assessing histological activity in asymptomatic chronic active hepatitis. Hepatology 1981;1(5):431-5.
22. Ishak K, Baptista A, Bianchi L, Callea F, De Groote J, Gudat F, et al. Histological grading and staging of chronic hepatitis. Journal of hepatology 1995;22(6):696-9.
23. Brunt EM, Janney CG, Di Bisceglio AM, Neuschwander-Tetri BA, Bacon BR. Nonalcoholic
Hepatic steatosis in patients with chronic hepatitis C

steatohepatitis: a proposal for grading and staging the histological lesions. The American journal of gastroenterology 1999;94(9):2467-74.
24. Hourigan LF, Macdonald GA, Purdie D, Whitehall VH, Shorthouse C, Clouston A, et al. Fibrosis in chronic hepatitis C correlates significantly with body mass index and steatosis. Hepatology 1999;29(4):1215-9.
25. Castera L, Hezode C, Roudot-Thoraval F, Bastie A, Zafrani ES, Pawlotsky JM, et al. Worsening of steatosis is an independent factor of fibrosis progression in untreated patients with chronic hepatitis C and paired liver biopsies. Gut 2003;52(2):288-92.
26. Fartoux L, Poupon-Robert A, Guechot J, Wendum D, Poupon R, Serfaty L. Insulin resistance is a cause of steatosis and fibrosis progression in chronic hepatitis C. Gut 2005;54(7):1003-8.
27. Czaja AJ, Carpenter HA, Santrach PJ, Moore SB. Host- and disease-specific factors affecting steatosis in chronic hepatitis C. Journal of hepatology 1998;29(2):198-206.
28. Powell EE, Jonsson JR, Clouston AD. Steatosis: co-factor in other liver diseases. Hepatology 2005;42(1):5-13.
29. Bondini S, Kallman J, Wheeler A, Prakash S, Gramlich T, Jondle DM, et al. Impact of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease on chronic hepatitis B. Liver international: official journal of the International Association for the Study of the Liver 2007;27(5):607-11.
30. Cindoruk M, Karakan T, Unal S. Hepatic steatosis has no impact on the outcome of treatment in patients with chronic hepatitis B infection. Journal of clinical gastroenterology 2007;41(5):513-7.
31. Asselah T, Rubbia-Brandt L, Marcellin P, Negro F. Steatosis in chronic hepatitis C: why does it really matter? Gut 2006;55(1):123-30.
32. Poortahmasebi V, Alavian SM, Keyvani H, Norouzi M, Mahmoodi M, Jazayeri SM. Hepatic steatosis: prevalence and host/viral risk factors in Iranian patients with chronic hepatitis B infection. Asian Pacific journal of cancer prevention: APJCP 2014;15(9):3879-84.
33. Hsieh MH, Lee LP, Hsieh MY, Tsai KB, Huang JF, Hou NJ, et al. Hepatic steatosis and fibrosis in chronic hepatitis C in Taiwan. Japanese journal of infectious diseases 2007;60(6):377-81.
34. Tschantzis E, Papatheodoridis GV, Manesis EK, Chrysanthos N, Kafiri G, Archimandritis AJ. Hepatic steatosis in chronic hepatitis B develops due to host metabolic factors: a comparative approach with genotype 1 chronic hepatitis C. Digestive and liver disease: official journal of the Italian Society of Gastroenterology and the Italian Association for the Study of the Liver 2007;39(10):936-42.
35. Hu KQ, Kyulo NL, Esrallian E, Thompson K, Chase R, Hillebrand DJ, et al. Overweight and obesity, hepatic steatosis, and progression of chronic hepatitis C: a retrospective study on a large cohort of patients in the United States. Journal of hepatology 2004;40(1):147-54.
36. Mihm S, Fayyazi A, Hartmann H, Ramadori G. Analysis of histopathological manifestations of chronic hepatitis C virus infection with respect to virus genotype. Hepatology 1997;25(3):735-9.
37. Castera L, Hezode C, Roudot-Thoraval F, Lonjon I, Zafrani ES, Pawlotsky JM, et al. Effect of antiviral treatment on evolution of liver steatosis in patients with chronic hepatitis C: indirect evidence of a role of hepatitis C virus genotype 3 in steatosis. Gut 2004;53(3):420-4.
38. Hui JM, Kench J, Farrell GC, Lin R, Samarasinghe D, Liddle C, et al. Genotype-specific mechanisms for hepatic steatosis in chronic hepatitis C infection. Journal of gastroenterology and hepatology 2002;17(8):873-81.
39. Kumar D, Farrell GC, Fung C, George J. Hepatitis C virus genotype 3 is cytopathic to hepatocytes: Reversal of hepatic steatosis after sustained therapeutic response. Hepatology 2002;36(5):1266-72.
40. Hwang SJ, Luo JC, Chu CW, Lai CR, Lu CL, Tsay SH, et al. Hepatic steatosis in chronic hepatitis C virus infection: prevalence and clinical correlation. Journal of gastroenterology and hepatology 2001;16(2):190-5.
41. Gordon A, McLean CA, Pedersen JS, Bailey MJ, Roberts SK. Hepatic steatosis in chronic hepatitis B and C: predictors, distribution and effect on fibrosis. Journal of hepatology 2005;43(1):38-44.
42. Machado MV, Oliveira AG, Correze-Pinto H. Hepatic steatosis in hepatitis B virus infected patients: meta-analysis of risk factors and comparison with hepatitis C infected patients. Journal of gastroenterology and hepatology 2011;26(9):1361-7.
43. Negro F. Hepatitis C virus and liver steatosis: is it the virus? Yes it is, but not always. Hepatology 2002;36(5):1050-2.

http://mjiri.iums.ac.ir