



Vitamin D pathway polymorphisms impact on HBV interferon treatment outcomes in a cohort of HBeAg negative patients.



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BACKGROUND

To date 350 million people are chronically infected by Hepatitis B virus (HBV) worldwide (1). Vitamin D (VD) deficiency has been related to chronic liver diseases, hepatic fibrosis progression and treatment poor response (2). Variability on genes involved in VD network could play a role in response to HBV infection, since this is known to be a key immunomodulator: *CYP27B1* VD activator enzyme single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP), together with *IL28B* ones, are considered pharmacogenetics predicting factors of HBV treatment outcomes (3). For these reasons, this work aimed to investigate the role of other VD signaling gene SNPs in HBV-treatment with peg-interferon (peg-IFN).

OBJECTIVES

Our aim was to investigate the role of other VD signaling gene SNPs in HBV-treatment with peg-interferon (peg-IFN).

	UNIVARIATA	MULTIVARIATA
	<i>p</i> ;OR (IC 95%)	<i>p</i> ;OR (IC 95%)
Metavir	0.55; 0.99 (0.97; 1.02)	0.032; 0.056 (0.005; 0.106)
Sesso	0.45; 0.77 (0.38; 1.53)	
BMI	0.40; 1.05 (0.94; 1.17)	
Genotipo Virale	0.001; 0.70 (0.56; 0.87)	0.006; 0.69; (0.53; 0.90)
CYP27B1 +2838 TT	< 0.001; 3.25 (1.68; 6.30)	0.81; 0.77; (0.10; 6.22)
CYP27B1 -1260 GT/TT	< 0.001; 0.28 (0.15; 0.54)	< 0.001; 0.18 (0.08; 0.42)
CYP24A1 rs2248359 CC	0.63; 1.18 (0.60; 2.33)	
CYP24A1 rs927650 CT/TT	0.63; 1.87 (0.97; 3.60)	0.42; 1.44; (0.60; 3.47)
CYP24A1 rs2585428	0.92; 0.98 (0.63; 1.52)	
VDR ApaI AA	0.086; 0.56 (0.29; 1.09)	0.74; 0.87; (0.37; 2.02)
VDR TaqI CC	0.47; 1.17 (0.76; 1.80)	
VDR FokI TC/CC	0.70; 0.83 (0.33; 2.13)	
VDR BsmI AA	0.41; 1.20 (0.78; 1.83)	
VDR Cdx2 AG/GG	0.63; 1.10 (0.74; 1.64)	
VDBP rs7041 TG/GG	0.36; 1.11 (0.68; 2.88)	
CYP27A1 rs4674343	0.007; 3.03 (1.36; 6.67)	0.064; 2.29; (0.94; 5.57)
IL28B rs12979860 CC	< 0.001; 4.78 (2.73; 8.37)	< 0.001; 6.90; (3.46; 13.75)
IL28B rs12980275 AA	< 0.001; 3.78 (2.22; 6.44)	0.77; 0.81; (0.20; 3.32)
IL28B rs8099917 TT	0.001; 0.29 (0.14; 0.62)	0.18; 0.49; (0.27; 1.39)

Table 1. Factors, in univariate and multivariate analyses, able to predict the virological outcome.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

We retrospectively enrolled 173 HBeAg-negative infected adult patients treated for 48 weeks with peg-IFN α -2a. We evaluated virological and serological response according to SNPs on following genes: *CYP27A1* (VD precursor production enzyme), *CYP24A1* (VD inactivating enzyme), *VDR* (VD receptor) and *VDBP* (VD binding protein, transporter), determined by real-time PCR.

RESULTS

HBV-DNA drop at 3 months of therapy was influenced by *VDR ApaI AA* ($p=0.001$) and *VDR Cdx2 AG/GG* ($p<0.001$) genotypes, whereas HBV-DNA drop at 6 months of therapy was significant associated with *CYP24A1 rs927650 CT/TT* ($p=0.023$), *VDR ApaI AA* ($p=0.009$) and *VDR Cdx2 AG/GG* ($p<0.001$) genotypes. Related to HBsAg clearance, significant influences of *VDR ApaI CA/AA* ($p=0.023$) and *VDBP TG/GG* ($p=0.009$), and *VDR Cdx2 AG/GG* ($p<0.001$) and *VDBP TG/GG* ($p=0.009$) were respectively highlighted at 3 and 6 months of treatment. In logistic regression analysis, concerning virological outcome, *CYP27A1 rs4674343 GG* genotype remained in the final model (Table 1), together with already known ones (*IL28B* and *CYP27B1* SNP, metavir score and HBV viral genotype), but with a "border-line" statistical significance ($p=0.064$, OR 2.29; IC 95% 0.94-5.57); related to serological response, we confirmed *IL28B* and *CYP27B1* SNPs, metavir and HBV viral genotype role.

CONCLUSIONS

Pharmacogenetic evaluation could become an important tool for therapy individualization. Our work provides a new overview of VD pathway pharmacogenetics in HBV field, but further studies are required to confirm this findings on a large cohort of patients.

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