

Comparison of efficacy of treatment with peginterferon alfa-2a plus ribavirin vs peginterferon alfa-2b plus ribavirin among patients chronically infected with non 2/3 HCV genotypes with low and high pretreatment viral load.

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THERAPEUTICAL EFFICACY OF PEGINTERFERON ALFA-2A (PEGASYS, 40 KD) VERSUS PEGINTERFERON ALFA-2B (PEGINTRON, 12 KD) BOTH IN COMBINATION WITH RIBAVIRIN WAS ANALYZED IN PATIENTS WITH LOW AND HIGH PRETREATMENT VIRAL LOAD.

PATIENTS:

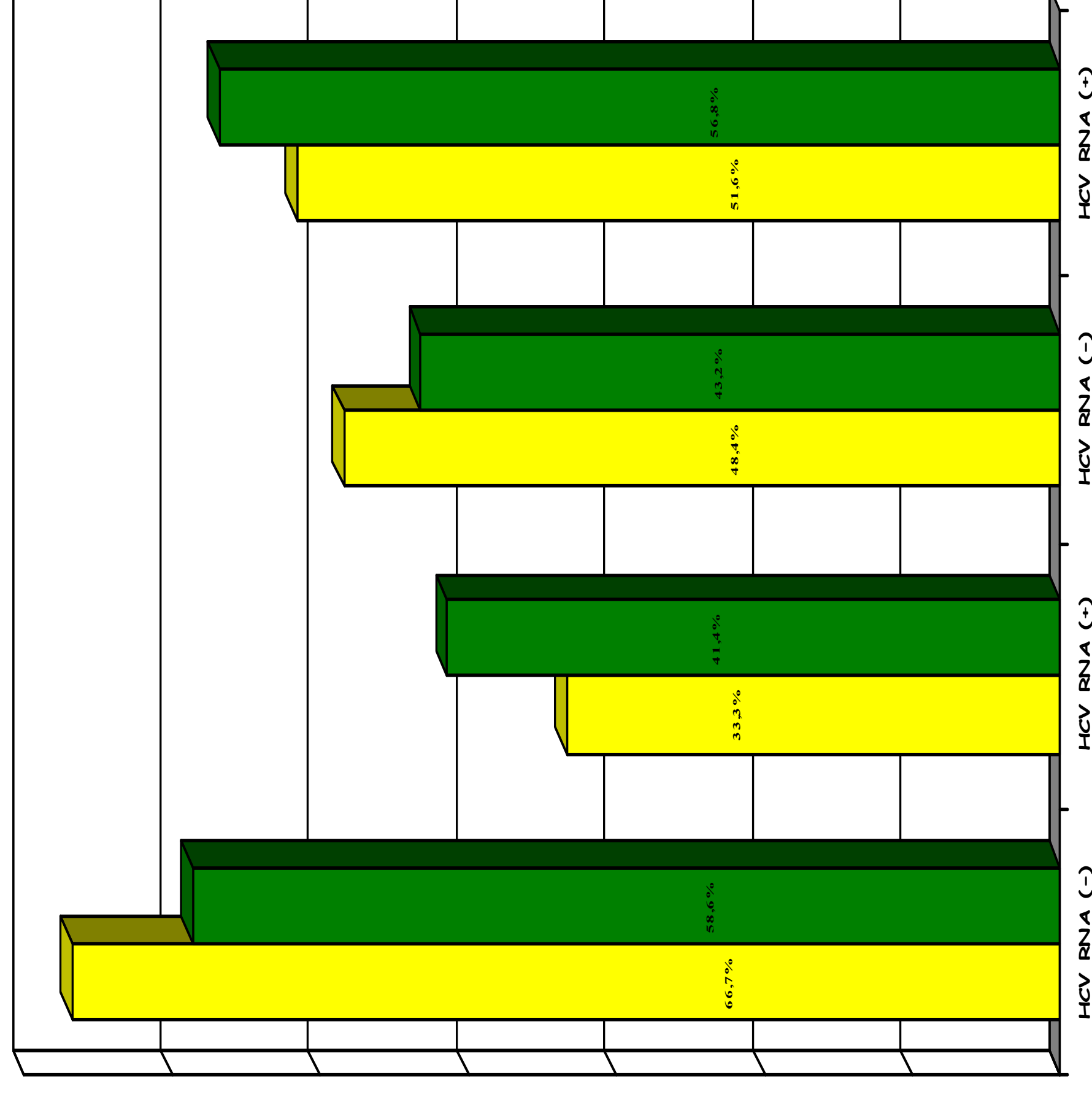
TWO HUNDREDS AND TWELVE PATIENTS CHRONICALLY INFECTED WITH NON 2/3 HCV GENOTYPES WERE TREATED 48 WEEKS WITH PEGINTERFERON ALFA-2A (PEGASYS, GROUP A) AND PEGINTERFERON ALFA-2B (PEGINTRON, GROUP B), BOTH PLUS STANDARD DOSES OF RIBAVIRIN. A AND B PTS WERE DIVIDED INTO GROUPS WITH LOW ($\leq 600,000$ IU/ML) AND HIGH ($> 600,000$ IU/ML) PRETREATMENT VIRAL LOAD (VL) TO COMPARE THE EFFICACY OF TREATMENT. 17 PTS WERE LOST TO OBSERVATION (9 IN GROUP A AND 8 IN GROUP B). THE ANALYSIS CONCERNED 195 (92%) PTS: 92 (91,1%) TREATED WITH PEGASYS AND 103 (92,8%) TREATED WITH PEGINTRON.

METHODS:

THE MAIN STUDY OUTCOME WAS UNDETECTABLE HCV RNA ON WEEK 72 (SVR), 24 WEEKS AFTER END OF TREATMENT. HCV RNA WAS PERFORMED, DETERMINED WITH HCV RNA ASSAY AND VIRAL LOAD (VL) WITH CA HCV MONITOR TEST (BOTH OF ROCHE DIAGN SYS). LIVER BIOPSIES WERE ANALYZED ACCORDING TO THE KNOELL'S AND SCHEUER'S SCORES. STATISTICAL ANALYSIS WAS PERFORMED WITH CHI-SQUARED.

RESULTS:

NO STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE WAS FOUND ON THE POSITIVE SVR IN GROUP A VS B AND LOW PRETREATMENT VL: 20 (66,7%) PTS IN GROUP A AND 17 (58,6%) IN GROUP B (p=0,523). TEN (33,3%) PTS IN GROUP A AND 12 (41,4%) IN GROUP B HAD DETECTABLE HCV RNA. THIRTY (48,4%) PTS WITH HIGH PRETREATMENT VL IN GROUP A AND 32 (43,2%) IN GROUP B HAD POSITIVE SVR (p=0,549), AND 32 (51,6%) IN GROUP A AND 42 (56,8%) IN GROUP B HAD DETECTABLE HCV RNA. THERE WERE HIGHER PROPORTIONS OF PATIENTS WITH SVR TREATED WITH PEGINTERFERON ALFA-2A (PEGASYS).



VL $\leq 600,000$ IU/mL VL $> 600,000$ IU/mL

	PEGINTERFERON ALFA-2A (GROUP A)		PEGINTERFERON ALFA-2B (GROUP B)	
	(-)	(+)	(-)	(+)
OVERALL	92		103	
HCV RNA $\leq 600,000$ IU/mL	$> 600,000$ IU/mL		$\leq 600,000$ IU/mL	$> 600,000$ IU/mL
VIRAL LOAD	30	62	29	74
SVR	HCV RNA		HCV RNA	
	(-)	(+)	(-)	(+)
	20* (66,7%)	10 (33,3%)	17* (58,6%)	12 (41,4%)
		30** (48,4%)		32** (43,2%)
				42 (56,8%)
GENDER:				
	MALE	15	32	15
FEMALE	15	30	14	26
FIBROSIS SCORE:				
	1-2	28	49	23
3-4	1	10	6	19
UNKNOWN	1	3	0	5

Chi-squared: *p=0,523 **p=0,549

CONCLUSION:

THE LOW PRETREATMENT VIRAL LOAD IS A GOOD PREDICTOR OF SVR.