The response to the combination therapy (peginterferon alfa plus ribavirin) of patients with chronic hepatitis C infection has shown success in approximately 40 to 45% of patients. Such response rates might be disappointing, especially with patients infected with the HCV genotype 1, a high viral load or advanced fibrosis. Low tolerability and significant side effects of therapy frequently lead to dosage reduction or treatment discontinuation decreasing response factors even further. Treatment decisions need the inclusion of liver biopsies and HCV genotyping for improved results. The link between the IL28B genotype and HCV clearance may impact such decisions. Variations in the IL28B gene directly correlate with the sustained virological response (SVR) in patients treated with peginterferon and ribavirin. The CC genotype has the highest likelihood of SVR, than CT or TT genotypes. IL28B genotyping has been increasingly adopted to help estimate the probability of successful treatment in genotype 1 patients. Protease inhibitors, telaprevir and boceprevir, are the first directly acting licensed antivirals for the treatment of hepatitis C. A number of studies using genotype testing, with triple therapy, including telaprevir or boceprevir, resulted in significantly improved rates of cure. A recent preliminary study with daclatasvir, asunaprevir, peginterferon and ribavirin for a 24 week period provided a high rate of SVR in patients with genotype 1 infection who did not respond to prior therapy with peginterferon and ribavirin. The response in some patients to the combination of daclatasvir and asunaprevir alone showed that SVR can be achieved without peginterferon and ribavirin therapy.

Biography

Dr. Ozenirler received her medical degree in 1982 from Ankara University School of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey, where she did her residence. Subsequently she was a fellow in gastroenterology at Gazi University, Ankara, Turkey, where she now is professor of gastroenterology and hepatology. She did post-graduate work at Showa University School of Medicine, Tokyo, Japan, and as ACG scholar at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas. She has published many publications mainly in hepatology both in Turkish and in English. She is also a member of the editorial board of the Turkish Journal of Gastroenterology and a board member of the Ankara chapter of the Turkish Association for the Study of the Liver.