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EXTRAHEPATIC MANIFESTATIONS IN CHRONIC VIRAL HEPATITIS IN CHILDREN

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Background: Extrahepatic manifestations are frequent in the onset or during evolution of chronic viral hepatitis. If this is the unique manifestation of chronic hepatitis that could lead to delay in the diagnostic and treatment.

The aim of our study was to evaluate the importance of the extrahepatic manifestations in chronic viral hepatitis in children and to correlate the presence of these manifestations with the evolution and the response to treatment.

Material and methods: We have studied retrospectively 365 patients with chronic viral hepatitis followed-up in our clinic during 10 years. We have analyzed the presence of extrahepatic manifestations at the onset of the disease, during evolution and the influence of these manifestations on the disease and response to treatment.

Results: Extrahepatic manifestations were present in 32 patients (8,76%) as the only sign of hepatic disease: arthralgia, cutaneous vasculitis, glomerulonephritis, immune thrombocytopenic purpura.

The most frequent during evolution of hepatitis was vasculitis in 17 patients (48,7% of those with extrahepatic manifestations). The patients with extrahepatic manifestations had no response to Interferon treatment more frequent than those without extrahepatic manifestations (no response in 74,19% vs. 54,4%, $p=0.045$)

Conclusions: It is important for pediatrician to know the nature and frequency of extrahepatic manifestations in chronic viral hepatitis in order to make a correct diagnostic and to begin an efficient treatment for these patients.

