MANNOSE-BINDING LECTIN (MBL), AS A RISK FACTOR FOR HCV INFECTION AND MODULATOR OF THERAPEUTIC RESPONSE.

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Mannose-binding lectin (MBL) has been associated to infection and response to treatment in the HCV model. This work aimed to show the association of the MBL2 polymorphism and the response to the treatment in HCV infection. We studied 111 patients attended at the Oswaldo Cruz Hospital of the University of Pernambuco. A total of 165 unexposed, uninfected individuals matched for provenience were the controls. MBL2 genotyping was performed using melting temperature assay. The 0 allele was more frequent in the HCV positive group than in healthy controls. Genotypes frequencies were significantly different in HCV+ subjects when compared to healthy controls. Allele and genotypes frequencies have been evaluated in HCV infected subjects divided according to response to therapy. The 0 allele was more frequent in the HCV positive subjects that responded well to the therapy than in non-responders individuals; a similar trend has been observed for MBL2 genotypes, being the A0 and 00 more represented in good responders than non-responders, but no statistical significant differences have been evidenced. Our results suggest MBL polymorphism as a possible risk factor for HCV infection while the wild type allele may influences the response to HCV treatment.

Key words: HCV, MBL, Polymorphism.

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