

CHARACTERIZATION OF MANNAN-BINDING LECTIN MOLECULAR PROFILE IN HEPATITIS C PATIENTS

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Mannan-binding lectin is a plasma glycoprotein member of the collectin family, a group of proteins characterized by interaction with more than one specific sugar residues expressed on many microbial surfaces. MBL gene polymorphism has been linked to decreased levels of MBL expression and/or different numerous oligomeric forms. This work aimed to evaluate the molecular profile of MBL in serum of 30 hepatitis C virus (HCV) patients from the Oswaldo Cruz University Hospital (HUOC - UPE) using lectin purification assay in microplates, dot-blot assay and reducing SDS-PAGE. All serum MBL purified samples were recognized by antibody anti-MBL (HYB-131) and individuals with AA/AO genotype for MBL showed mainly a band of 88 kDa. Some dimer forms (above 150 kDa) were also visualized. All individuals with OO genotype were characterized by a low weight band of 30 kDa besides a 88 kDa band. Results suggest a simple and low cost separation method for MBL in which it was possible to evaluate the profile of serum monomeric forms of this lectin in HCV patients. This is an important step for the understanding of the structure/genotype of MBL in this pathology which would be associated to the treatment response.

Supported by: CNPq.

Key words: MBL, HCV, genotype, dot-blot.