

HCV-RELATED MIXED CRYOGLOBULINEMIA: DATA FROM PITER, A NATIONWIDE ITALIAN HCV COHORT STUDY

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BACKGROUND

Mixed Cryoglobulinemia (MC) is an elusive disease

- Incomplete manifestation
- False negative humoral data
- Incomplete manifestation
- Temporary not detectable CGs

As a consequence of such an elusive nature

Risk of inclusion of MC-positive cases among the MC-negative affecting the resulting prevalence

The percentage of HCV patients harboring CGs enormously vary in published studies

A correct diagnosis of B LPD-HCV is clinically important for:

- allowing a treatment with DAAs in spite of a mild liver damage (<10 kPa)
- preventing an evolution towards severe LPDs (i.e. NHL)
- improving the HCV-detection rate, testing patients with rheumatologic manifestations that could be related to an undiagnosed HCV infection

OBJECTIVES

The aim of this study was to evaluate 1) the prevalence 2) clinical profile and 3) preliminary results of DAA treatment of MC in consecutive patients enrolled in PITER framework

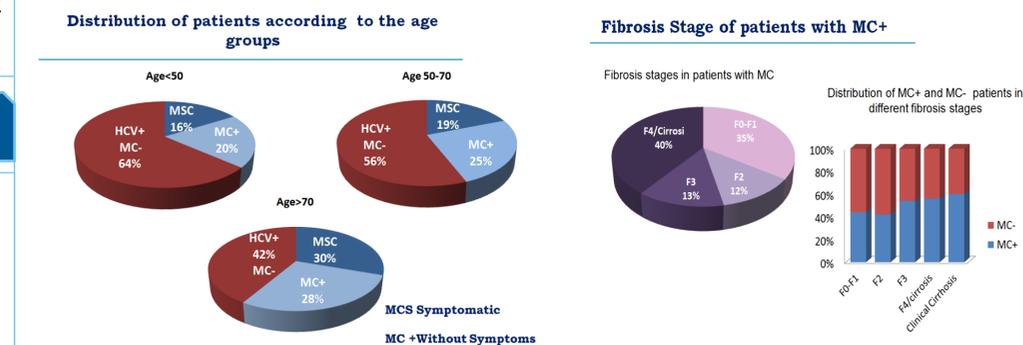
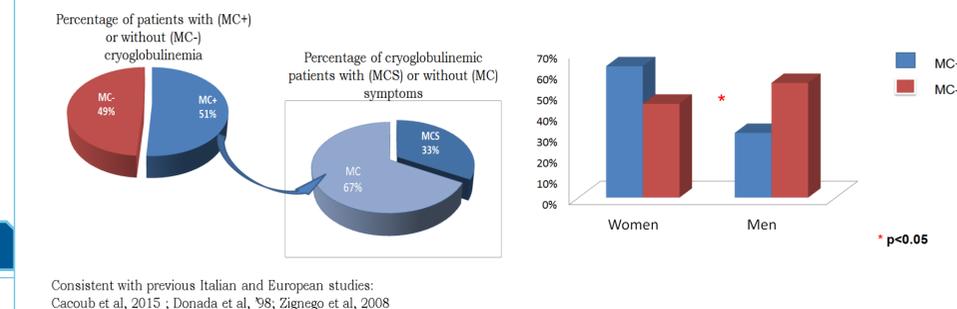
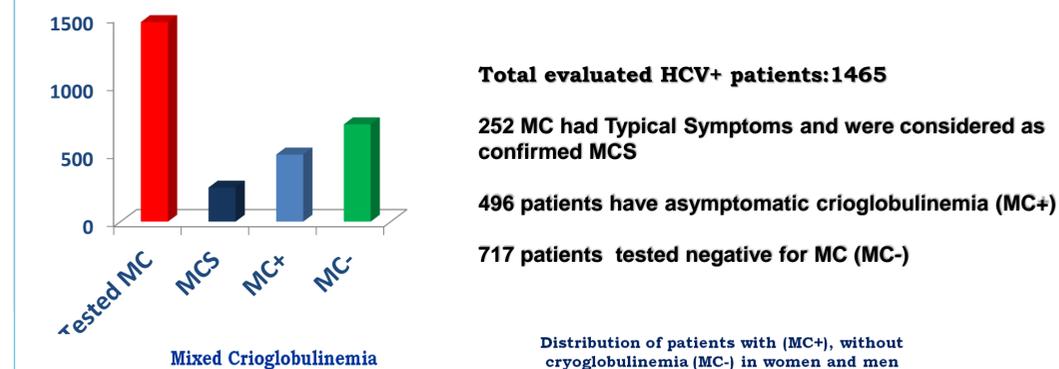
MATERIALS & METHODS

A specific questionnaire regarding the presence of MC and related symptoms was applied.

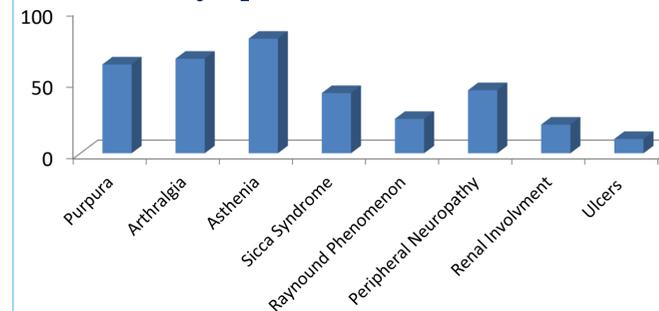
Preliminary results of DAAs treatment of HCV chronic infection in patients with MC were also reported

RESULTS

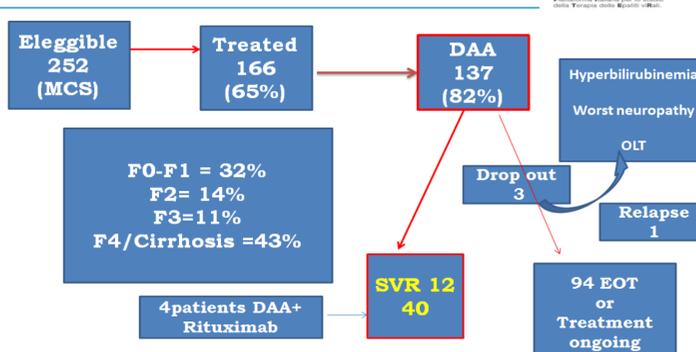
The presence of MC was never tested in 80% of cases in spite of its clinical and therapeutical importance



Main MSC symptoms in PITER



Antiviral Therapy: PRELIMINARY RESULTS



Post Treatment Symptoms in patients achieving SVR12

Disappearance or improvement of all Symptoms in 18 (45%) pts

Improvement of more than 50% of symptoms in 13 (33%) pts

Improvement in less than 50% of symptoms in 6 (15%) pts

Complete persistence or deterioration in none

Complete clinical response, Partial clinical response, No response

Cutaneous Manifestations (Purpura) were the most rapidly responsive ones

SUMMARY

The present, ongoing study, is a the first Italian prospective, multicentric, Real Practice analysis conducted on a wide population of HCV-chronically infected patients.

- The presence of MC is evaluated only in about 20% of HCV + patients.
- Among those, the rate of patients carrying CGs is about 50% of whom 30% have typical symptoms.
- Symptomatic MC is confirmed to be associated with female gender, older age, and a more severe liver damage.
- The analysis of a wider population of patients will be useful to better confirm/show possible correlations among MC and clinical factors.

In a subgroup of patients treated with DAA that reached the SVR12, the preliminary results showed that: the great majority experienced a disappearance or an improvement of all the baseline symptoms (complete clinical response) or of at least 50% of initial symptoms (partial clinical response)

CONCLUSIONS

Despite the importance and the clinical relevance, in the Italian real practice, the presence of MC was evaluated only a minority of cases;

This makes as priority the identification of specialized centers to assure the best counselling, diagnostic approach and, when requested, the correct management to these patients

Viral eradication obtained with INF-free, and, if possible, RBV-free schedules, was confirmed as a first-line approach in this category of patients

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