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New drugs to treat HCV

THE Egyptian Society of Tropical Medicine Infectious and Parasitic Diseases recently held its 20th annual International Congress (ESTIP 2015) in Alexandria. Up to 500 physicians specialised in diseases of the liver and the digestive system, attended the conference. They discussed several topics related to the new medicines being used in the treatment of hepatitis C virus, (HCV), which affects 7-10 per cent of the population.

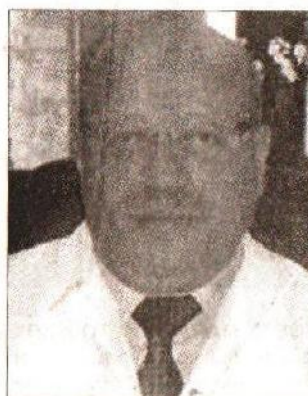
The conference's agenda included a lecture on the new drugs and their side effects and ways of curing HCV, without resorting to interferon.

Dr Ayman Yussri, head of the Department of Endemic Diseases at Cairo University's School of Medicine, delivered a lecture which focused on how patients who were

suffering from hepatitis C and B virus (HCBV) usually developed severe complications including liver cirrhosis, whereas those suffering from HCV alone had less complications.

For his part, Dr Gamal Essmat, Hepatitis Virus Consultant for the World Health Organisation (WHO), discussed in his lecture the use of new medicines to cure HCV and how to combine them, to achieve the best cure rate. He confirmed that the incidence of HCV in Egypt had dropped to seven per cent from the 10 per cent level it had reached in 2008.

According to Dr Hisham el-Khayat, Professor of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at the Theodor Bilharz Research Institute, type four HCV, which affects Egyptian patients, is one of the types that respond to the new



Dr Gamal Essmat



Dr Hisham el-Khayat

medicines, while in the past it was the least responsive to interferon.

A number of seminars were held to discuss the most up-to-date tech-

niques for the treatment and cure of hepatic viruses and the use of liver transplants as the best available option to date, to cure liver cancer.