

PRESS CLIPPING SHEET

PUBLICATION:	Egyptian Gazette
DATE:	13-September-2015
COUNTRY:	Egypt
CIRCULATION:	60,000
TITLE :	HCV patients lack Vitamin D
PAGE:	05
ARTICLE TYPE:	General Health News
REPORTER:	Staff Report

HCV patients lack Vitamin D

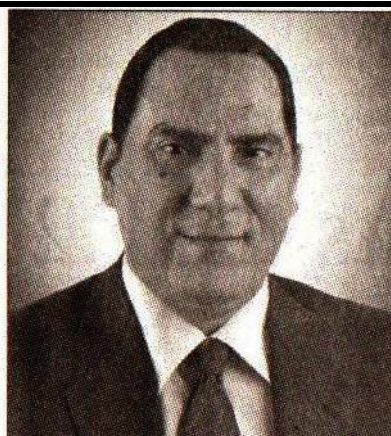
A STUDY has been carried out by the National Research Centre (NRC) on the role of vitamin D in people with hepatitis C Virus (HCV) due to the prevalence of a vitamin D shortage found in those afflicted with the virus.

The study aimed at evaluating vitamin D in patients affected with HCV and its association with liver cirrhosis. In addition, the study pointed to the possibility of using vitamin D as an indicator in the diagnosis of liver cirrhosis, according to Dr Essam Galal, a researcher at the NRC's Child Health department.

Dr Galal said the study involved 60 children affected with HCV, their ages ranging from eight to 14. Another 60 children in sound health, identical in gender and age with the sick children, provided a control group.

A detailed medical history of all the participants was included in the study. In addition they underwent a complete check up on liver function and the amount of vitamin D present in their blood was measured.

Furthermore a biopsy was made from the liver of each patient affected with



Dr Essam Galal

HCV to evaluate the stage of cirrhosis in each one.

The study showed that the group suffering from HCV had 50 per cent less vitamin D than their healthy counterparts. Furthermore children with HCV, who have a shortage of vitamin D in the blood, are more liable to moderate and severe liver cirrhosis compared to children with HCV who have an adequate amount of vitamin D in blood.

Accordingly, Dr Galal recommends using vitamin D in treating children with HCV as well as measuring vitamin D in the blood as a diagnostic indicator of liver cirrhosis in patients with HCV.