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New drugs curing hepatitis C virus

NEW medicines for hepatitis C virus (HCV) are obtaining a good response, according to an Egyptian professor of hepatology who attended the conference of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) held in San Francisco recently.

Dr Gamal Essmat, Professor of Liver Diseases, Cairo University, who attended the conference, reviewed the outcome of a clinical study undertaken with Pharco, a pharmaceutical company working in Egypt, on the treatment of patients with HCV.

The study, in its third phase, showed a high response to the new medicines and a recovery of Egyptian patients with HCV



Dr Gamal Essmat

genotype four upon taking the drugs Ravidasvir and Sovosbuvir produced by

Pharco. The study involved 300 patients with HCV, Dr Essmat said, adding that both Ravidasvir and Sovosbuvir taken once daily for 12 weeks by HCV patients produced an excellent response in 98 per cent of them.

Regarding patients with HCV who did not have liver cirrhosis, the recovery rate so far was 100 per cent, according to the study.

There were also indications of the possibility of a recovery rate of 100 per cent for HCV patients with liver cirrhosis if the duration of treatment were increased to 16 weeks, according to Dr Essmat.

There were no relapses so far among patients with HCV who had liver cirrhosis.

The outcomes have exceeded all forecasts, said Dr Essmat. They gave a glimmer of hope to 22 per cent of the number of those with HCV around the world, including Egyptian patients. The study was approved by the Scientific Research Ethics Committee affiliated to the Ministry of Health and Population.

The importance of the conference derives from the large attendance it elicits of physicians specialised in liver disease from all over the world. During the conference, the treatment protocols for viral hepatitis and other liver diseases are updated. This year's conference was attended by 8,000 physicians.