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Summary

MYELOID-DERIVED SUPPRESSOR CELLS AFTER ERADICATION OF HEPATITIS C VIRUS USING DIRECTLY ACTING ANTIVIRALS

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Hepatobiliary

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A case-control study found that myeloid-derived suppressor cell levels remained significantly elevated in hepatitis C patients 2-3 years after achieving sustained virologic response with direct-acting antivirals compared to healthy controls.

KEY POINTS

- Fifty-five subjects were studied, comparing MDSC levels in patients who achieved SVR 2-3 years post-DAA therapy versus healthy controls using flow cytometry for CD33+ HLA-DR– CD11b+ cells.
- MDSC levels were significantly higher in patients with eradicated HCV than in healthy controls: 4.98% (IQR 3.3-7.7) versus 3.09% (IQR 1.4-3.9), p=0.001.
- Normal MDSC levels were not restored after HCV eradication with directly acting antivirals even after 2 years of viral clearance.
- MDSC are immunosuppressive cells that suppress T cell responses and are known to increase in chronic hepatitis C infection.
- The authors state that clinical implications and consequences of persistent MDSC elevation require further investigation.

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