

HEPATITIS C ELIMINATION. A CHALLENGING TASK FOR RESOURCE SCARCE AND LOW HDI COUNTRIES EXPERIENCE FROM TERTIARY CARE HOSPITAL IN RURAL PAKISTAN

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Poster

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A cross-sectional study of 420 hepatitis C patients in rural Pakistan found that freely available sofosbuvir and daclatasvir achieved 96% end-of-treatment response and 91.5% sustained virological response, suggesting this regimen is effective for hepatitis C elimination in resource-limited settings.

KEY POINTS

- Out of 10,240 patients screened at a gastroenterology clinic in Swabi, Pakistan from January 2021 to December 2022, 420 patients with detectable HCV RNA were enrolled, of whom almost 90% were non-affordable.
- Patients received sofosbuvir and daclatasvir for 12 or 24 weeks, with ribavirin added for treatment-experienced and cirrhotic patients; 287 patients had chronic hepatitis C without cirrhosis and 137 were cirrhotic.
- End-of-treatment response was achieved in 403 patients (96%) and sustained virological response in 413 patients (91.5%).
- The authors recommend one-time screening for all patients above 18 years on first contact with healthcare workers and state that national and international sponsorship of screening, diagnosis, and management is needed to achieve the 2030 hepatitis elimination goal in low human development index countries.

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