No Effect of Pegylated Interferon-α on Total HIV-1 DNA Load in HIV-1/HCV Coinfected Patients

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Pegylated interferon-alpha (pIFN-α) is suggested to lower human immunodeficiency virus type-1 (HIV-1) DNA load in antiretroviral therapy (ART)-treated patients. We studied kinetics of HIV-1 DNA levels in 40 HIV-1/hepatitis C virus (HCV) coinfected patients, treated with pIFN-α for HCV and categorized into 3 groups according to start of ART: chronic HIV-1 infection (n = 22), acute HIV-1 infection (n = 8), no-ART (n = 10). Total HIV-1 DNA levels in 247 peripheral blood mononuclear cell samples were stable before, during, and after pIFN-α treatment in all groups. Our results question the benefit of pIFN-α as an immunotherapeutic agent for reducing the HIV-1 reservoir.

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