

Insulin resistance and chronic hepatitis C in non-diabetic patients

Resistência à insulina e hepatite crônica em pacientes não diabéticos

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The recent publication on Insulin resistance and chronic hepatitis C in non-diabetic patients was very interesting (1). Souza and cols. concluded that “Insulin resistance is often present in patients with chronic hepatitis C, and this parameter is associated with more advanced HCV-related hepatic fibrosis (1).” The finding in this study is concordant with the recent report by Itoh and cols. (2). It is believed that direct damage caused by the virus with proinflammatory cytokines will interfere with normal insulin signaling, and this further disturbs glucose metabolism (3). However, some issues on the present study (1) should be mentioned. First, the protocol in the present study cannot exclude the interference of other possible confounding diseases in the patients (such as HIV and other uncommon hepatitis virus infection). Second, this is only an observational study, hence, it is not reasonable to draw conclusions on any association (which would require an analytical study).

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