



Name of Candidat **Amany Mohamed Mohamed Shabaan**

Degree **PhD**

Title of Thesis

Evaluation of Plasma Osteopontin level in HCV patients and its role in monitoring of therapy response

Supervisors 1- Prof. Fathia Korany Mohamed

2- Prof. Abdullah Morsy Desoky

3- Prof. Soha Mohamed Hamdy

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Department: **Chemistry**

ABSTRACT

This study was performed on forty five patients with HCV; thirty of them are highly selected patients who receive a schedule of treatment with peginterferon (PEG-IFN) plus ribavirin (RBV) combination therapy and sub classified into twenty patients (Responder to treatment) and ten patients who showed no response after 48 week of treatment. The rest of 45 patients are 15 patients not subjected to Interferon treatment, in addition to 15 healthy controls.

In the present study we observed a highly significant increase in serum ALT, AST activities and serum F.B.S, T. Bilirubin concentrations, while there was a significant decrease in serum Albumin, T. Protein levels in the untreated HCV infected group when compared to control group.

There was a highly significant increase in plasma OPN concentration in the untreated HCV infected group when compared to control group , So plasma OPN can be used as a predictive marker for presence of HCV, also after interferon and ribavirin treatment there was a highly significant decrease in plasma OPN concentration in the treated HCV infected responder group compared to the untreated HCV infected group, while there was a non-significant increase in plasma OPN concentration when comparing the treated HCV infected non-responder group with the untreated HCV infected group; so OPN can be used in monitoring response therapy in HCV patients after Interferon and ribavirin treatment.