

EXAMPLE 4

[0048] The treatment protocol is as in Example 3, except that 1 MU of the interferon and 1200 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2$ of the thymosin are used.

EXAMPLE 5

Analysis of Data

[0049] There are two primary criteria for response, to therapy-normalization of ALT levels by the end of the treatment period (a partial response may be defined as a decrease of at least 50% of initial ALT), and histological improvement as determined by the Histological Activity Index (HAI) of Knodell et al. above.

[0050] This analysis provides a raw score ranging from 1 to 22 per sample. Paired data can be analyzed using the Wilcoxon paired-sample test. Additionally, samples can be classified into mild, moderate or reverse CAH, and improvement assessed using the Chi-square statistical analysis.

[0051] Life-table analysis is used to evaluate remission and relapse status in terms of normalization of ALT levels. Other continuous variables are analyzed using Student's t test: Dichotomous data are subjected to Chi square of Fisher's exact test, as is appropriate.

[0052] A power analysis was done to determine the number of patients in each test group in order to show predicted differences. Power analysis applied to an ANOVA using a power of 0.80 with $\alpha=0.05$, coupled with prior studies of mean ALT levels and their variances, estimated a need for 21 to 52 patients in each test group to show a mean ALT difference of 15 IU/L. As 3 to 5% of patients are expected to drop out, and factoring in treatment of the control group after six months, 40 patients per group was arrived at.

We claim:

1-24. (canceled)

25. A composition comprising a pharmaceutical dosage unit of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, 900-1200 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2$ of body surface area or 1500-1700 μg thymosin- α and/or fragments of thymosin- α in combination with 1-3 MU of at least one α -interferon, said pharmaceutical dosage unit being capable of promoting in vivo inactivation of hepatitis C virus when administered to mammals infected with said virus.

26. The composition of claim 25, wherein said α -interferon is interferon α -2b.

27. The composition of claim 26, wherein said interferon is recombinant interferon.

28. The composition of claim 25, wherein said thymosin α is thymosin α -1.

29. An anti-hepatitis C formulation comprising 900-1200 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2$ of body surface area or 1500-1700 μg of at least one thymosin- α or fragment of thymosin- α , said thymosin fragment selected from the group consisting of C-terminal 4-28, C-terminal 15-28, N-terminal 1-8, N-terminal 1-14 and N-terminal 1-20, in combination with 1-3 MU of at least one α -interferon in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, for use in the treatment of a mammal infected with hepatitis C virus.

30. The formulation of claim 29, wherein said thymosin is Thymosin α -1.

31. The formulation of claim 29, wherein said α -interferon is interferon α -2b.

32. The formulation of claim 31, wherein said interferon is recombinant interferon.

33. The composition of claim 25, wherein said fragment of thymosin- α is selected from the group consisting of C-terminal 4-28 fragment, C-terminal 15-28 fragment, N-terminal 1-8 fragment, N-terminal 1-14 fragment and N-terminal 1-12 fragments.

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