

## Evaluation Of chemokine Ligand 2 (CCL2) And Interferon Gama Levels (INF- $\gamma$ ) In The Serum Of Chronic Liver Disease Patients

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### **Abstract :-**

In the present study, 70 of patients were suffering from chronic liver disease and 20 of control group, were 35 females and 35 males of patients. The samples were collected from Gastroenterology and Hepatology Center in AL-Sadder Medical City/Najaf Governorate / Iraq, the period from July till August, 2019. The ages of CLD patients and healthy group ranged 30 to 69 y old. And the patients group was divided into subgroup according to the age and gender group, Patients without a complete medical record were excluded and those with other diseases e.g. (Alcoholic liver damage, acute liver damage and viral hepatitis were excluded.

The current study indicated a highly significant enhance ( $p < 0.05$ ) in serum CCL2/MCP-1 and INF- $\gamma$  levels in CLD compared with healthy group. The result indicated no significant differences ( $p > 0.05$ ) in serum levels of CCL2/MCP-1 and INF- $\gamma$  between females and males groups of CLD patients. The results, also indicated a significant enhance ( $p < 0.05$ ) in serum CCL2/MCP-1, and INF- $\gamma$  levels there was a significant increase ( $p < 0.05$ ) among different ages groups. There is a positive association between CCL2/MCP-1 and INF- $\gamma$  concentrations of CLD patients

**Conclusion :** The present study conducted that CCL2/MCP-1 and INF- $\gamma$  levels were good markers for diagnosis and detection of chronic liver disease in both genders the males and females.

**Keywords:** Chronic liver disease (CLD), Chemokine ligand 2/monocyte chemotactic peptide-1 (CCL2/MCP-1), Interferon Gama (INF- $\gamma$ ).

### **Introduction :-**

Chronic liver disease (CLD) is growing yearly and increases the morbidity and mortality about 500 million people are infected with this disease around the world for many reasons such as viral infections, alcohol, immune diseases, fatty acid, metabolic, and cryptogenic disorders<sup>1</sup>. Almost all types of liver diseases are characterized by the presence of an inflammatory response, and the chemokine system exerts a key role in development of the hepatic inflammation and also following

wound healing response, that can lead to either, maladaptive response or resolution, tissue scarring (fibrosis) and progression of the clinical manifest liver diseases with chronic inflammation<sup>2,3,4</sup>.

CCL2/ MCP-1, Chemokine ligand 2 and also referred to as monocyte chemoattractant peptide 1 (MCP-1) is a member of the beta (C-C) chemokine family encoded via CCL2 gene of molecular weight 9–15 kDa, its expression can be induced in various cell types, including stellate, hepatocytes and inflammatory cells<sup>5,6</sup>. The CCR2 is only identified as receptor for CCL2/MCP-1, and its expressed on T-lymphocytes, basophils and monocytes<sup>7,8</sup>. The CCL2/ MCP-1, it's one of the chemokines which regulate infiltration and migration of macrophages or monocytes,<sup>40-57</sup> And also its responsible for Initiation of the inflammation, and fibrosis<sup>9,10</sup>.

Interferon Gamma (IFN- $\gamma$ ) is protein encoded by interferon gamma gene, It's member of interferon type-II, and it's one of an inflammatory cytokine recognized for its immune-modulatory and antiviral properties, it's secreted mainly via activated T-cells and natural killer (NK) cells<sup>11</sup>. The action of IFN- $\gamma$  in liver extends further than immune modulation to include regulation of cell cycle progression and hepatocyte apoptosis during the liver diseases<sup>12,13,14</sup>.

Interferon gamma (IFN- $\gamma$ ) also have anti-fibrogenic effects, antiproliferative and immune-modulatory actions. The levels in circulating IFN- $\gamma$  have been relative to severity of the disease in liver during inflammation, fibrosis, cirrhosis and Hepatocytocytosis<sup>12,15,16</sup>.

## **Methods and Materials:-**

### **Healthy groups and Patients:-**

In the present study, 70 of patients were suffering from chronic liver disease and 20 of control group, were 35 females and 35 males of patients. The samples were collected from Gastroenterology and Hepatology Center in AL-Sadder Medical City/Najaf Governorate / Iraq, the period from July till August, 2019. The ages of CLD patients and healthy group ranged 30 to 69 y old. And the patients group was divided into subgroup according to the age and gender group, Patients without a complete medical record were excluded and those with other diseases e.g. (Alcoholic liver damage, acute liver damage and viral hepatitis) were excluded.

### **Blood samples collection:-**

Five ml of venous blood was acquired by antecubital venipuncture utilizing needle drained from CLD and control subjects between 8:30- 10 AM following 12 hour fasting. The blood was permitted to clot in plain test tube at room temperature. The serum was suctioned after centrifugation at 3000rpm for 10min, divided into aliquots in ependorff tubes and stored at -20°C.

### Determination serum level of Human Chemokine Ligand 2 / Monocyte Chemotactic Protein-1 (CCL2/MCP-1)

Human Chemokine Ligand 2 / Monocyte Chemotactic Protein-1 (CCL2/MCP-1) ELISA kit for determination of concentrations in serum was supplied by Bioassay technology laboratory Co., Ltd. A Catalog No: Cat.NoE0124Hu.

### Determination serum level of Human Interferon Gamma (INF- $\gamma$ )

Human Interferon Gamma (INF- $\gamma$ ) ELISA Kit for determination the concentration in serum was supplied by Bioassay technology laboratory, Ltd. A Catalog No: E0105Hu.

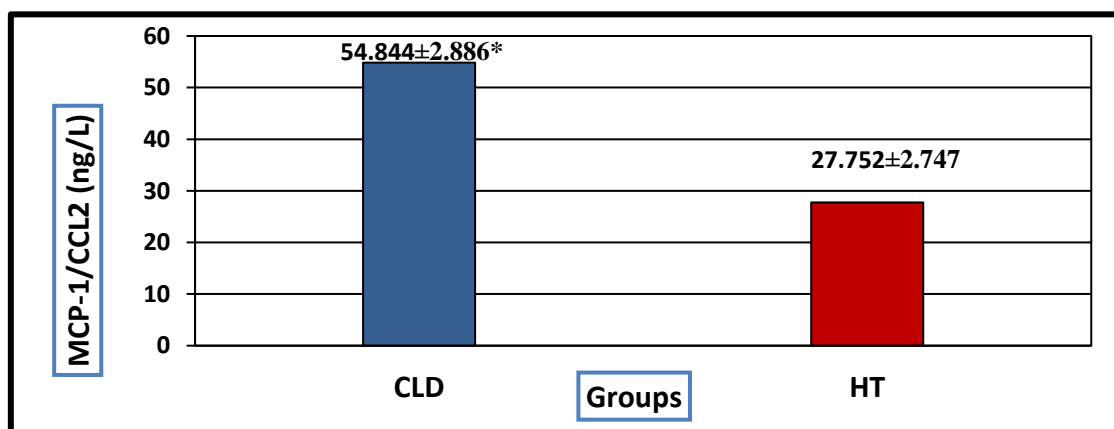
### Statistical analysis

The data of present study were articulated as (Mean  $\pm$  Standard Error), the statistical analysis (Descriptive statistics, Correlation coefficients, P-value) were calculated by using Graphpad prism. The comparison between two groups were analyzed by t-test and the comparison among subdivided groups were analyzed by one-way ANOVA. when P-value < 0.05 was statistically a significant.

### Result :-

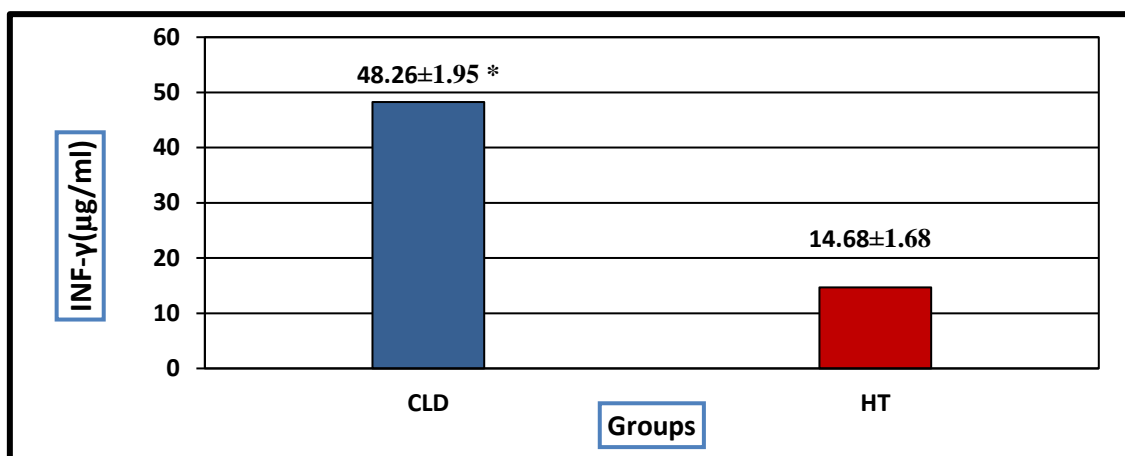
#### Evaluation of serum level CCL2 / MCP-1 (pg/ml) and INF- $\gamma$ ( $\mu$ g/mL)

The figures (1) and (2) showed a significant increase ( $p < 0.05$ ) in serum CCL2/MCP-1 and INF- $\gamma$  concentrations of CLD patients compared with in healthy group.



(\*): Statistically significant differences ( $p < 0.05$ ).

Figure(1): Serum level of CCL2/MCP-1 between chronic liver disease Patients and healthy groups.



(\*): Statistically significant differences ( $p < 0.05$ ).

Figure(2): Serum level of INF-γ between chronic liver disease patients and healthy groups.

Evaluation of serum levels CCL2/MCP-1 and INF-γ in CLD patients between females and males groups.

The Table (1) revealed no significant differences ( $p > 0.05$ ) in serum of CCL2/MCP-1 and INF-γ concentrations between females and males groups of CLD patients.

Table(1): Evaluation of serum CCL2/MCP-1 and INF-γ concentrations between females and males groups of CLD patients.

Groups Markers	Mean ± S.E.	
	Males	Females
CCL2/MCP-1 (ng/L)	52.624 ± 1.01	57.064 ± 1.89 ns
INF-γ (μg/mL)	46.41 ± 1.64	50.11 ± 1.051 ns

(ns): Statistically mean no significant differences ( $p > 0.05$ ).

Comparison serum biomarkers levels according to ages of patient with chronic liver disease.

Table (2), revealed a significant increase ( $p < 0.05$ ) in serum CCL2/MCP-1 and INF-γ concentrations of CLD patients as compared with healthy group at different ages groups.

Table(2): Comparison of serum levels CCL2/MCP-1 and INF-γ among different ages groups of CLD patients.

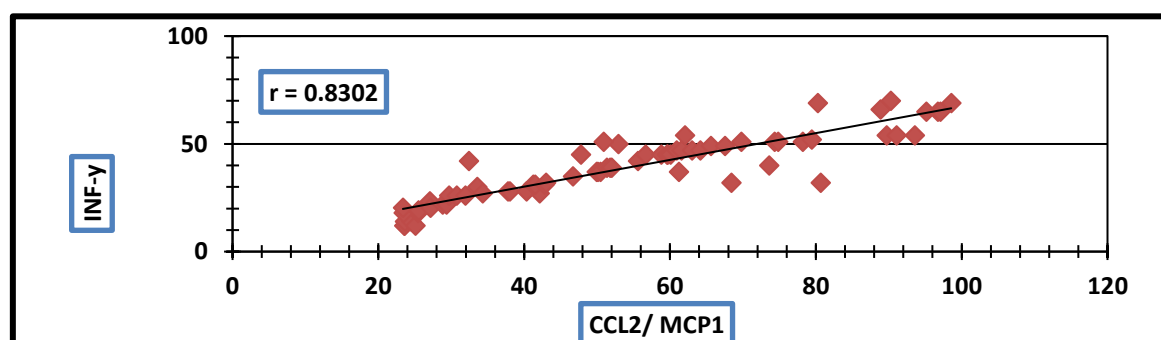
Groups	Mean ± S.E.
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Markers	30-39y	40-49y	50-59y	60-69y
CCL2/MCP-1 (ng/L)	38.609±1.506 a	46.109±1.48 b	61.399±2.013 c	73.259±2.408 d
INF- $\gamma$ ( $\mu$ g/mL)	30.17±1.74 a	42.13±2.079 b	55.92±2.045 c	64.82±2.21 d

The different letters mean significant differences ( $P < 0.05$ ).

#### The Linear correlation of CCL2/MCP-1 with INF- $\gamma$

Figure (3) shows the linear correlation : There is a positive association between CCL2/MCP-1 and INF- $\gamma$  concentrations of CLD patients, Results of the correlation coefficient ( $r = 0.8302$ ) .



**Figure (3): The Correlation between serum levels CCL2/MCP-1 and INF- $\gamma$  in patients with CLD.**

#### Discussion :-

In present study showed a significant increased ( $p < 0.05$ ) in serum CCL2/MCP-1 levels and INF- $\gamma$  in CLD patients in comparison with control group. The current study indicated a positive association between CCL2/MCP-1 and INF- $\gamma$  concentrations of CLD patients.

In the study of<sup>1</sup> indicated the chemokine CCL2 were identified to be independent risk factors for moderate/severe liver necro-inflammation, In fact the CCL2/ MCP-1, it's one of the chemokines which regulate infiltration and migration of macrophages or monocytes, And also its responsible for Initiation of the inflammation, and fibrosis<sup>9,10</sup>. And CCL2 /MCP-1 have known to play the major role in the recruitment and activation of Kupffer cells to the injured liver and was acknowledged as a promotor to liver inflammation<sup>17, 18, 19</sup> the Its expression can be induced in various cell types, including stellate, hepatocytes and inflammatory cells<sup>5,6</sup>. The CCR2 is only known receptor for CCL2/MCP-1 and its expressed on T-lymphocytes, basophils and monocytes<sup>7,8</sup>, the CCL2/mcp-1 protein and mRNA liver expression previously have been reported in the liver disease<sup>20, 21</sup>. furthermore, CCL2 deficient mice are protected against the liver injury independent to CCR2 via inhibition of proinflammatory cytokines and also induction of genes is related to fatty acid oxidation, recently have

shown in studies<sup>22, 23</sup>. In humans, only few studies have been performed to investigate the role of CCL2/MCP-1 in non alcoholic fatty liver diseases (NAFLD) pathology. The study of Haukeland et al.<sup>9</sup> indicated that patients with (NAFLD) low grade systemic inflammation is presented with higher serum levels of CCL2/MCP-1 in comparison to healthy group. Furthermore, the CCL2/MCP-1 also elevated in the steatotic livers of Nonalcoholic steato-hepatitis (NASH) patients<sup>9,24</sup>. The Chronic inflammation within the liver is closely connected to fibrosis in almost all types of liver disease, especially in NASH and liver fibrosis diseases<sup>17,25</sup>. Based on the experimental and clinical data, there is highly correlated between recruitment of the inflammatory macrophages that monocyte-derived in the liver to development of NASH and fibrosis<sup>26, 27, 28</sup>.

Many previous researches indicated which T-cell immune regulatory cytokine in liver damage<sup>29</sup> IFN- $\gamma$  one of these cytokine<sup>30</sup>, and IFN- $\gamma$  have been anti-fibrogenic effects, anti-proliferative and immunomodulatory actions, and the levels in circulating IFN- $\gamma$  is highly relative to severity of disease in liver during "fibrosis, cirrhosis, and Hepatocytocytosis"<sup>12,15,16</sup>. Furthermore, Beside to the increment ALT and AST levels, the increment in concentrations IFN- $\gamma$  were highly significant associated with albumin, total bilirubin and the platelet counts, and the increments of level IFN- $\gamma$  indicate, which its perhaps implicated in the pathogenesis of liver damage regardless of underlying disease<sup>16</sup>. Many previous researches indicated which IFN- $\gamma$  have a distinct roles in the Th1 type cellular responses leading to the "inflammation and liver fibrosis" in CLD<sup>31</sup>. The Combination of IFN- $\gamma$  and intratumoral natural killer cells is independent predictor for survival and recurrence in Hepatocytocytosis<sup>32</sup>. The IFN- $\gamma$  produced mainly via NKT and NK cells that is a part of the innate-immune responses and via CD8 T-lymphocyte effector and CD4 Th1 through adaptive immune responses<sup>33</sup>.

Previous researches have acknowledged additional risk factors for occurred to CLD not only limited to extreme alcohol consumption, but including also aging, metabolic syndromes which associated to the obesity and hypertension, dyslipidemia and hyperglycaemia. Regardless of the type of gender<sup>34, 35</sup>, the advancing age is a risk factor for liver cirrhosis irrespective of the cause as cirrhosis was found significantly high in patients above the age of 45 years<sup>35, 36, 37</sup>. The Free fatty acids are highly significant mediators of lipotoxicity; serve as possible cellular toxins that lead to lipid overaccumulation and The increment in levels of FFAs in non alcoholic fatty liver disease patients highly associated with severity of the disease<sup>38,39</sup>.

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### **Ethics clearance**

This article does not contain any studies with human participants directly or animals.

### **Conflict of interest**

The others declare that there is no conflict of interest

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### **Data availability**

All data were analyzed during this work are included in the manuscript.

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