

■ **Interferon- α treatment did not affect glucose tolerance** in patients with chronic hepatitis C infection, according to the results of a study conducted in Japan. 25 men and 7 women of mean age 44.4 years underwent a 75g oral glucose test before and after 3 months of interferon- α treatment. An IV glucose test was added to the protocol for the last 15 patients. At baseline, 5 patients had mild diabetes mellitus, 3 had impaired glucose tolerance and 24 had normal glucose tolerance. After 3 months of interferon- α therapy, no patient had newly diagnosed diabetes mellitus and 2 of the patients with diabetes mellitus and all 3 patients with impaired glucose tolerance showed an improvement.

Ito Y, et al. Effects of long-term interferon-alpha treatment on glucose tolerance in patients with chronic hepatitis C. *Journal of Hepatology* 31: 215-220, Aug 1999

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