**S1 Table. Characteristics of the 56 patients with chronic HCV infection enrolled in the present study.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Characteristic | | Number (%) | Mean | Standard Deviation | *P* value |
| Sex | Male | 23 (41) |  |  |  |
| Female | 33 (58) |  |  |  |
| Age (years) | <40 | 13 (23) |  |  |  |
| 40–59 | 33 (58.9) |  |  |  |
| >60 | 10 (17.85) |  |  |  |
| Nationality | Saudi | 47 (83.92) |  |  |  |
| Non-Saudi | 9 (16. 07) |  |  |  |
| ALT levels (U/L) | Normal | 41 (73.21) | 32.78 | + 11.92 | 0.0034\* |
| elevated | 16 (28.57) | 101.94 | + 79.41 |
| AST levels (U/L) | Normal | 27 (48.21) | 25.77 | + 5.47 | 0.0004\* |
| Elevated | 29 (51.72) | 83.83 | + 78.34 |
| AFP levels  (ng/mL) | Normal | 49 (87.5) | 4.864 | + 2.945 | 0.09 |
| Elevated | 7 (12.5) | 84.071 | + 103.9 |
| Viral Load (IU/mL) | Low (**1**) | 8 (14.2) | 23359 | +27580 | 0.031\* |
| High (**2**) | 47 (83.92) | 11786302 | + 1489790 |

ALT, Alanine aminotransferase; AST, Aspartate Aminotransferase; AFP, Alpha-Fetoprotein; (**1**) Low viral load: ≤ 800000 IU/mL; (**2**) High viral load: >800000 IU/mL. \*Significant increase at *P* < 0.05 as determined using the *t*-test.