

DR. CHRISTOPHE HÉZODE (Orcid ID : 0000-0002-6762-8033)

Received Date : 13-Sep-2016

Revised Date : 26-Jan-2017

Accepted Date : 31-Jan-2017

Article type : Original Articles

Handling Editor: Alexander Thompson

Daclatasvir Plus Sofosbuvir, With or Without Ribavirin, for Hepatitis C Virus Genotype 3 in a French Early Access Programme

Christophe Hézode,¹ Pascal Lebray,² Victor De Ledinghen,³ Fabien Zoulim,⁴ Vincent Di Martino,⁵ Nathalie Boyer,⁶ Dominique Larrey,⁷ Danielle Botta-Fridlund,⁸ Christine Silvain,⁹ Hélène Fontaine,¹⁰ Louis D'Alteroche,¹¹ Vincent Leroy,¹² Marc Bourliere,¹³ Isabelle Hubert-Fouchard,¹⁴ Dominique Guyader,¹⁵ Isabelle Rosa,¹⁶ Eric Nguyen-Khac,¹⁷ Larysa Fedchuk,¹⁸ Raoudha Akremi,¹⁸ Yacia Bennai,¹⁸ Anne Filipovics,¹⁸ Yue Zhao,¹⁹ Jean-Pierre Bronowicki²⁰

¹Service d'Hépatologie, CHU Henri-Mondor, AP-HP, Université Paris-Est, INSERM U955, Créteil, France; ²Service d'Hépto-Gastroentérologie et de Transplantation Hépatique, Hôpital Pitié-Salpêtrière, Paris, France; ³Centre d'Investigation de la Fibrose Hépatique, Hôpital Haut-Lévêque, CHU de Bordeaux, Pessac, France; ⁴Hôpital de la Croix-Rousse, Hospices Civils de Lyon, Lyon, France; ⁵Service d'Hépatologie et de Soins Intensifs Digestifs, CHRU Jean Minjoz, Besançon Cedex, France; ⁶AP-HP, Hôpital Beaujon, Service

This article has been accepted for publication and undergone full peer review but has not been through the copyediting, typesetting, pagination and proofreading process, which may lead to differences between this version and the Version of Record. Please cite this article as doi: 10.1111/liv.13383

This article is protected by copyright. All rights reserved.

d'Hépatologie, Clichy, France; ⁷Hépto-Gastroentérologie, CHU de Montpellier, Hôpital Saint-Eloi, Montpellier, France; ⁸Service d'Hépto-Gastroentérologie, CHU Timone Marseille, Aix Marseille Université, Marseille, France; ⁹Service d'Hépto-Gastroentérologie et d'Assistance Nutritive, Laboratoire Inflammation Tissus Epithéliaux et Cytokines EA 4331, CHU Poitiers, Poitiers Cedex, France; ¹⁰ Hepatology Unit, Hôpital Cochin, AP-HP, Université Paris-René Descartes, INSERM U-181 and USM20, Pasteur Institute U1223, Paris, France; ¹¹CHU Trousseau, Tours, France; ¹²CHU de Grenoble, Clinique Universitaire d'Hépto-Gastroentérologie, Grenoble, France; ¹³Hôpital Saint-Joseph, Marseille, France; ¹⁴Service d'Hépto-Gastroentérologie, CHU Angers, Angers, France; ¹⁵Service des Maladies du Foie, CHU Rennes, Rennes, France; ¹⁶Centre Hospitalier Intercommunal, Créteil, France; ¹⁷Service d'Hépto-Gastroentérologie, CHU Amiens Nord, Amiens, France; ¹⁸Bristol-Myers Squibb R&D, Rueil-Malmaison, Paris, France; ¹⁹Bristol-Myers Squibb R&D, Princeton, NJ, USA; ²⁰INSERM U954, CHU de Nancy and Université de Lorraine, Vandoeuvre-lès-Nancy, France.

Corresponding author:

Christophe Hézode, Service d'Hépatologie, CHU Henri-Mondor, 51 Avenue du Maréchal de Lattre de Tassigny, 94000 Créteil, France

Tel: +33 149812325

Fax: +33 149812352

Email: christophe.hezode@aphp.fr

Abbreviations: AE, adverse event; ALT, alanine aminotransferase; AST, aspartate aminotransferase; ATU, Autorisation Temporaire d'Utilisation; CYP3A4; cytochrome P450 3A4; DCV, daclatasvir; gamma GT, gamma-glutamyl transferase; HCC, hepatocellular

carcinoma; HCV, hepatitis C virus; HIV, human immunodeficiency virus; ITT, intention-to-treat; LLOQ, lower limit of quantitation; MELD, Model for End-Stage Liver Disease; mITT, modified intention-to-treat; NS5A, non-structural protein 5A; NS5B, non-structural protein 5B; pegIFN, peginterferon; PT12, post-treatment week 12; RBV, ribavirin; SVR12, sustained virologic response at PT12; TAR, Treatment Access Request; VA, Veterans Administration.

Conflicts of interest:

CH, VDL, FZ: personal fees from Abbvie, BMS, Gilead, Janssen, MSD. CH: personal fees from Roche. VDL: grants from Gilead. PL: congress attendance for Biotest, Gilead; Sub-Principal Investigator for AbbVie. VDM: personal fees (advisory boards/speaker) from MSD, Gilead, AbbVie, BMS. DL: personal fees (advisory boards/grants) from BMS, AbbVie, Gilead, Janssen, MSD. CS: personal fees (speaker) from Gilead. HF: personal fees, advisory boards, presentations, congress invitations and/or trial participation for AbbVie, Gilead, MSD, Janssen, BMS, Roche. VL: personal fees (advisory boards/speakers' bureaus/consulting) from AbbVie, BMS, Gilead, Janssen, Merck. MB: personal fees (advisory boards/speaker) from MSD, Gilead, Janssen, Vertex, AbbVie, BMS, Novartis. DG: personal fees (advisory boards/ speaker) from Servier, Intercept, AbbVie, Gilead, BMS, MSD, Janssen; grants from Janssen. IR: personal fees (advisory boards/symposia) from BMS, Janssen, Gilead, MSD, AbbVie. ENK: personal fees (speaker) from BMS, Gilead, Janssen, AbbVie; scientific committee participation for BMS. LF, RA, YB, AF and YZ: employees of BMS. JPB: personal fees/grants from BMS, Gilead, MSD, AbbVie. IHF, LDA, DBF, and NB: no conflicts.

Financial support:

This was a compassionate use programme authorized by a regulatory authority. No financial support was provided by BMS.

Abstract

Background and aims: Optimally effective treatment for hepatitis C virus (HCV) genotype 3 (GT3) is urgently needed, particularly in advanced liver disease. Daclatasvir (DCV) plus sofosbuvir (SOF) was efficacious in phase 3 studies. Real-world data for DCV+SOF in advanced GT3 infection are presented from the French Temporary Authorisation for Use programme, which allowed patients in need without other treatment options access to DCV ahead of its market authorization.

Methods: Patients with F3/F4 fibrosis and/or extrahepatic HCV manifestations, post-liver-transplant HCV recurrence, and/or indication for liver/kidney transplant, were treated with DCV+SOF (60+400 mg daily) for a recommended duration of 24 weeks. Addition of ribavirin (RBV) and/or shorter treatment were at physician's discretion. The primary efficacy analysis was sustained virologic response at post-treatment week 12 (SVR12; modified intention-to-treat). Safety was assessed by spontaneous adverse event reporting.

Results: The efficacy population comprised 333 patients, mostly cirrhotic (77%, of whom 18% were decompensated) and treatment-experienced (72%). After 24 weeks of DCV+SOF, SVR12 was 89% (174/196) overall (95% CI 83.6–92.5%), 98% (43/44) without cirrhosis (95% CI 88.2–99.6%) and 86% (129/150) with any degree of cirrhosis (95% CI 79.5–90.7%), without SVR12 increase in those who received additional RBV for 24 weeks (SVR12 82% [50/61; 95% CI 70.5–89.6%]). Among 516 GT3-infected patients with safety data, 5 discontinued for adverse events and 11 died.

Conclusions: DCV+SOF achieved high SVR12 rates and was well tolerated in this large real-world cohort of GT3-infected patients with advanced liver disease, without benefit of ribavirin in those treated 24 weeks.

Key words: hepatitis C, genotype 3, daclatasvir, sofosbuvir, real-world data, compassionate use

Key Points

- A real-world early-access programme treated HCV genotype 3-infected patients with highly advanced disease and no other treatment options with daclatasvir plus sofosbuvir. Many would have been ineligible for a randomized study.
- Sustained virologic response after 24 weeks of treatment was 89%: 98% without cirrhosis; 86% with cirrhosis (including decompensated cirrhosis). There was no incremental benefit with concomitant ribavirin.
- Only 1% of patients were recorded to have discontinued for an adverse event
- Daclatasvir and sofosbuvir, with or without ribavirin, was effective and well tolerated in this real-world cohort of HCV genotype 3 infected patients with advanced disease.

Introduction

Hepatitis C virus (HCV) genotype 3 is the second most prevalent genotype worldwide,¹ and associated with several features, such as accelerated progression of fibrosis and a greater risk of steatosis and hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC),²⁻⁴ that significantly increase liver-related

hospitalisation and death relative to other genotypes.⁵ Thus there is an urgent need for safe and effective treatment of genotype 3 infection.

All-oral HCV regimens have greatly improved treatment safety and efficacy relative to treatment with pegylated interferon (pegIFN) and ribavirin (RBV). However, some current oral agents have limited activity against genotype 3. Daclatasvir (DCV), a non-structural protein 5A (NS5A) inhibitor, and sofosbuvir (SOF), an NS5B inhibitor, are pan-genotypic oral HCV antivirals with potent activity against genotype 3.^{6,7} In the phase 3 ALLY-3 study, 12 weeks of DCV+SOF treatment resulted in a 96% rate of sustained virologic response at post-treatment week 12 (SVR12) in non-cirrhotic patients with genotype 3.⁸ This regimen is now a recommended option for non-cirrhotic genotype 3 infection in several clinical guidelines, including the European Association for the Study of the Liver, the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases, and the Association Française pour l'Etude du Foie guidelines.⁹⁻¹¹

Genotype 3 is more difficult to treat in patients with cirrhosis. An SVR12 rate of 86% was observed among genotype 3–infected patients with compensated cirrhosis following 12 or 16 weeks of DCV+SOF+RBV in the phase 3 ALLY-3+ study.¹² The combination of DCV+SOF for 24 weeks, with or without RBV, is a recommended option for genotype 3 infection with cirrhosis in several guidelines,⁹⁻¹¹ but there are few empirical data for this duration.

Early access initiatives allow access to promising new drugs ahead of their marketing authorization for patients with high unmet needs. Real-world data from such initiatives are valuable for validating clinical study data in a broader patient population. Globally, more than 7000 patients have been referred for treatment under early access programmes for DCV (Data on File [Bristol-Myers Squibb 2016: DAFL-047]). The French “Autorisation Temporaire d'Utilisation” (ATU) programme is one of the largest: ≈4000 HCV-infected

patients with severe liver disease and/or recurrent infection were enrolled for treatment with DCV+SOF with or without RBV, most receiving 24 weeks of treatment. We present analyses of a subgroup of ATU patients with genotype 3 infection.

Patients and Methods

Patients

Patients enrolled in the ATU programme infected with HCV genotype 3 were included. Eligible patients were adults with chronic HCV infection, no alternative treatment options, and an indication for treatment due to any of (1) advanced liver disease (physician-assessed F3 or F4 METAVIR or METAVIR-equivalent fibrosis and/or severe extrahepatic HCV manifestations), (2) post-liver transplant HCV recurrence, or (3) an indication for a liver or kidney transplant.

Determination of cirrhosis

Enrolled patients were assigned a cirrhosis status on the basis of a hierarchical algorithm (**Supplementary Table 1**) based on information provided in the Treatment Access Request (TAR). The algorithm considered (1) the patient's reported fibrosis stage (F0-F4) by any method of assessment, (2) any FibroScan result provided, and (3) the stage of disease described in the patient's eligibility for ATU treatment. Patients with reported F4 fibrosis were considered cirrhotic. Those <F4 or missing data were considered cirrhotic with an accompanying FibroScan result ≥ 14.5 kPa. If FibroScan data were missing or inconsistent with the reported fibrosis, the stage of disease was used.

Patients with cirrhosis were further categorized by Child-Pugh class as compensated (Child-Pugh A) or decompensated (Child-Pugh B or C).

Treatment dose and duration

Recommended treatment was DCV 60 mg + SOF 400 mg, once daily, for 24 weeks. RBV could be added and/or shorter treatment undertaken at the physician's discretion. DCV 30 mg was recommended with ritonavir-boosted atazanavir or other potent inhibitors of cytochrome P450 3A4 (CYP3A4) or P-glycoprotein; and DCV 90 mg with efavirenz or other moderate inducers of CYP3A4. DCV was contraindicated with potent CYP3A4 or P-glycoprotein inducers, and not recommended in pregnancy or women of childbearing potential not using effective contraception.

Programme conduct

This was not a clinical trial, and treatment was undertaken according to standard clinical practice. In accordance with French regulations, the ATU cohort was approved by the French authorities; neither ethics committee approval nor written informed consent were required, and data protection was ensured. TAR forms for individual patients were submitted to the programme sponsor (BMS) by their treating physicians and, once a TAR was granted, the patient's institutional pharmacy could order DCV directly from the sponsor. SOF was not provided through the sponsor.

Physicians were invited to return completed visit forms to the sponsor at treatment initiation (day 0), treatment weeks 2, 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, and 24 (as appropriate), post-treatment weeks 4, 12 (PT12) and 24, and treatment discontinuation. Forms reporting pregnancy or AEs were provided by physicians as appropriate. Physicians reporting AEs were not asked to clarify the data.

Assessments

HCV-RNA was assessed by local laboratories using their own protocols. For each returned visit form, quantitative HCV-RNA data were provided along with the assay and lower limit of quantitation (LLOQ) used, and an outcome of “quantifiable” ($>$ LLOQ) or “unquantifiable” (\leq LLOQ) was assigned. Where a qualitative result was reported, HCV-RNA was considered unquantifiable if target RNA was undetected.

Safety was evaluated as frequencies of serious AEs, AEs, and discontinuations for AEs. The physician was responsible for AE reporting. Standard pharmacovigilance practice was used, imputing AEs of unreported causality as treatment related.

Analysis populations and endpoints

The treated (safety) population comprised all patients with ≥ 1 post-day 0 visit form or AE report; the intention-to-treat (ITT) population was the subset with detectable baseline HCV-RNA and >1 day of treatment.

The primary efficacy analysis was a modified ITT (mITT) approach which excluded ITT patients without virologic data at PT12 due to discontinuation or dropout for reasons other than predefined treatment failure.

The primary efficacy outcome was SVR12, defined as unquantifiable HCV-RNA at PT12. Treatment failure was failure to achieve SVR12 for defined virologic or non-virologic reasons. Virologic failure consisted of virologic breakthrough (quantifiable on-treatment HCV-RNA from week 2 following an unquantifiable measure), relapse (unquantifiable HCV-RNA at end-of-treatment, then quantifiable at PT12), or undefined failure (quantifiable HCV-RNA at all reported visits). Non-virologic failure comprised missing HCV-RNA at PT12 due to treatment discontinuation for AEs or death on/after treatment. An observed values analysis was also performed which excluded non-virologic failures.

Statistical analysis

Missing PT12 data were back-imputed from the next available measurement; other intermittent missing data were imputed as the worse of the 2 flanking outcomes.

DCV treatment duration was derived from the documented start and end dates. Start date was taken from the listed date for DCV initiation, the pharmacovigilance database, or the date of day 0. Treatment end was as listed in the treatment discontinuation form or the last DCV discontinuation date with no new dose or resumption, taken from the pharmacovigilance database, or imputed from the last on-treatment visit. Primary analyses were based on actual treatment duration, analysed as 12 weeks (≤ 14 weeks actual treatment) or 24 weeks (> 14 weeks). Sensitivity analyses were undertaken for the duration initially considered by the physician (reported in the TAR), and for actual durations < 10 , 10 – < 14 , 14 – < 20 , and ≥ 20 weeks.

Results

Patients

A total of 560 genotype 3–infected patients referred by 280 physicians were enrolled from March 4 to October 27, 2014. From these, a treated population of 516 and an mITT efficacy population of 333 patients were derived (**Figure 1A**).

Baseline characteristics (mITT population) are shown in **Table 1**. Patients were primarily treatment experienced (72%), of whom 60% had prior relapse, 21% null response, and 19% partial response. Cirrhosis was present in 77% (18% of whom were decompensated), and 19% of 145 cirrhotic or pre-transplant patients with data had a Model for End-Stage Liver Disease (MELD) score ≥ 15 . Baseline albumin was < 35 g/L in 27%; baseline HCV-RNA ≥ 6 million IU/mL in 50%, and 14% were co-infected with human

immunodeficiency virus. Baseline characteristics for the 138 ITT patients excluded from the mITT analysis were similar to the 333 mITT patients (**Supplementary Table 2**); only Child-Pugh stage at TAR showed a $P < 0.05$ difference, with more Child-Pugh C (10% vs. 3%) and slightly fewer Child-Pugh B (11% vs. 15%) patients among those excluded. Trends ($P < 0.1$) towards more HIV or HBV coinfection and lower AST and gamma glutamyltransferase among excluded patients were also observed.

Most patients (59% [196/333]) received DCV+SOF without RBV for 24 weeks (as analysed), and a further 20% (66/333) for 12 weeks. The remaining 21% (71/333) received DCV+SOF+RBV, mostly (86% [61/71]) for 24 weeks. Forty-seven percent (34/72) in the 12-week analysis groups, and 88% (221/251) in the 24 week groups, were initially considered for 12 or 24 weeks of treatment, respectively (**Figure 1B**). For those treated 24 weeks, patients receiving RBV had more baseline cirrhosis (90% vs. 77% without RBV) and encephalopathy (7% vs. <1%), less HIV coinfection (5% vs. 18%), a shorter time since HCV diagnosis (median 11.5 vs. 15.4 years), higher total bilirubin (median 19.5 vs. 14.0 $\mu\text{mol/L}$) and lower ALT at TAR (median 76.0 vs. 107.0 IU/L), and lower HCV-RNA (median 5.8 vs. 6.2 \log_{10} IU/mL) and platelets (median 94.0 vs. $128.5 \times 10^9/\text{L}$) at day 0 (all comparisons $P < 0.05$).

Virologic response

Overall SVR12 rates and causes of treatment failure are shown in **Table 2** for the primary (actual duration) and sensitivity analyses (duration initially considered). For patients who received DCV+SOF for 24 weeks, overall SVR12 (mITT) was 89% (86% with cirrhosis, 98% without) and was similar with and without prior HCV treatment (90% [130/145; 95% CI 84–94%] vs. 88% [42/48; 95% CI 75–94%], respectively). Among treatment-experienced

cirrhotic patients in the primary analysis, SVR12 was 87% without RBV (101/116; 95% CI 80–92%) and 80% with RBV (32/40; 95% CI 65–90%). No incremental SVR12 advantage was seen in patients who received RBV.

SVR12 was numerically lower in patients with a 12-week analyzed duration, driven by more treatment failure for AEs or death (8% [6/76] vs. 2% [4/257]) or undefined virologic failures (8% [6/76] vs. 1% [3/257]) than the 24-week group, and a high proportion of patients treated less than 12 weeks. Almost one-fifth of 12-week patients (18% [14/76]) received <10 weeks of actual treatment (13% [10/76] for <6 weeks), and these had very low rates of SVR12 (**Figure 2**); among the 10 patients treated <10 weeks with treatment failure, only 2 (7 and 9 weeks) received >4 weeks of treatment, and both had non-virologic failure. By contrast, those who received 10–14 weeks of actual therapy had 80% SVR12 overall; 96% without cirrhosis and a 70% rate with cirrhosis (**Figure 2**) likely due to low RBV use among cirrhotic patients treated for this duration (6/62 [10%]).

Overall, patients treated without RBV had similar SVR12 rates by either analyzed or initially considered treatment duration. Among patients treated with RBV, SVR12 was higher in those initially considered for 12 weeks of treatment than those analyzed as receiving 12 weeks (89% vs 60%) due to 4 patients who actually received 24 weeks (three achieved SVR12). Patients initially considered for 24 weeks of DCV+SOF+RBV had a slightly lower SVR12 than those who received 24 weeks (75% vs 82%), driven by 4 patients analyzed as receiving 12 weeks due to early treatment failure (one discontinuation for an adverse event; two with a last recorded HCV RNA quantifiable at week 2 or 4; one virologic breakthrough).

Table 3 shows SVR12 rates (primary analysis) for patients with or without cirrhosis. Among patients with cirrhosis, SVR12 was numerically higher in the 24-week groups (86% [129/150] without RBV and 82% [45/55] with RBV) and also higher in compensated (Child-Pugh A) cirrhosis (9% [9/103 with MELD data] of whom had a MELD score ≥ 15) than in

decompensated (Child-Pugh B or C) disease (59% [18/31 with MELD data] of whom had a MELD score ≥ 15 ; **Supplementary Table 3**). Of patients treated 24 weeks with or without RBV, 88% (129/147) with compensated cirrhosis achieved SVR12 compared with 74% (23/31) with decompensated disease. Although decompensated patient numbers were small, there was no apparent effect on SVR12 of RBV for 24 weeks in either compensated or decompensated patients.

Treatment failure

There were 55 treatment failures: 45 virologic (4 breakthroughs, 32 relapses, 9 undefined) and 10 non-virologic failures for death (n=9) or treatment discontinuation for an AE (n=1; ascites/hepatocellular carcinoma/encephalopathy/pneumonia). All undefined virologic failures were in patients whose last available HCV-RNA data through PT12 was a quantifiable reading at treatment week 2 or 4.

Individual characteristics of these 55 patients are shown in **Supplementary Table 4**, and aggregate characteristics for virologic and non-virologic failures vs. SVR12 successes in **Supplementary Table 5**. Overall, patients with treatment failure showed more advanced indicators of baseline liver disease—more decompensated cirrhosis and MELD scores ≥ 15 , lower platelets and albumin, higher gamma-glutamyl transferase—than patients who achieved SVR12. This trend was particularly marked in patients with non-virologic failure, of whom 70% had decompensated cirrhosis and 57% MELD ≥ 15 , along with more laboratory abnormalities than those with virologic failure or achieving SVR12.

Liver disease measures pre- and post-treatment

Paired baseline and PT12 Child-Pugh data were available in 67 patients and MELD score in 46 patients.

At PT12, Child-Pugh class improved in 69% (9/13) of patients with decompensated cirrhosis (class B to A, n=7; class C to A, n=2), remained unchanged in 15% (2/13; both class B), and worsened in 15% (2/13; both class B to C). Among 54 patients with Child-Pugh A cirrhosis, 96% (52/54) remained unchanged at PT12, and 4% (2/54) progressed to class B.

All patients (n=24) with MELD scores <10 and paired data remained <10 at PT12. Of 12 patients with MELD scores 10–<15, 58% (7/12) were <10 at PT12, and the rest unchanged. Of 10 patients with MELD scores ≥15, 50% (5/10) improved at PT12 (2 dropped to <10, 3 to 10–<15), while the remaining 5 remained unchanged.

Safety

On-treatment safety (treated population) is shown in **Table 4**. Overall there were 11 deaths (including 9 non-virologic treatment failures in the mITT population): 7 with decompensated cirrhosis, 2 compensated cirrhosis, 2 without cirrhosis. Eight deaths were reported as unrelated to treatment and 3 (two unknown/unreported cause in Child-Pugh B cirrhosis; multi-organ failure/septic shock/intestinal obstruction after PT12 in a patient with SVR12 considered non-cirrhotic for missing data) were of unreported causality so categorized as treatment-related under pharmacovigilance imputation. Five patients discontinued for AEs, 3 achieved SVR12 (neutropenia, allergic dermatitis, unreported event); 1 was a non-virologic treatment failure (see above); and 1 requested treatment interruption in combination with an unspecified AE (excluded from the ITT population for unquantifiable baseline HCV-RNA).

More serious AEs occurred among patients receiving RBV, but with no apparent influence of treatment duration (**Table 3**). Compared with patients with available data not receiving RBV (n=395), those receiving RBV (n=109) experienced more serious gastrointestinal (10% vs. 4%), hepatobiliary (5% vs. 2%), and psychiatric disorders (4% vs. 1%) and more neoplasms (7% vs. 3%), consistent with the trend towards more advanced baseline disease observed in patients prescribed RBV. Three patients experienced a grade 3/4 reduction in haemoglobin (lowest on-treatment level 7.5–7.8 g/dL); none were receiving RBV.

Overall, the incidence of AEs in cirrhotic patients with baseline MELD data was similar between those with low (<10; n=134), intermediate (10–<15; n=56) and high (\geq 15; n=40) MELD scores (37%, 32%, 40%, respectively). However serious AEs were more common for scores \geq 15 than <15 (30% vs. 14%), particularly gastrointestinal disorders (15% vs 5%); infections/infestations, nervous system disorders, and hepatobiliary disorders (each 13% vs. 2%); and metabolism/nutrition disorders (8% vs. 2%). Death was also more common for MELD \geq 15 than <15 (10% vs. 1%).

Discussion

HCV genotype 3 has generally proven more challenging to treat with oral antivirals than other genotypes. This large real-world cohort of patients with genotype 3 infection plus advanced liver disease provides data on the clinical effectiveness of DCV+SOF (\pm RBV) in a challenging subset of patients with very limited options. Among these, overall SVR12 rates of 89% without RBV and 82% with RBV were observed after 24 weeks of treatment.

The majority (62% [48/77]) of non-cirrhotic patients had advanced (F3) fibrosis, and their 96% SVR12 rate (mITT) after 12 or 24 weeks of DCV+SOF \pm RBV is similar to non-

cirrhotic patients treated with DCV+SOF for 12 weeks in ALLY-3 (ITT 96%) and patients with F3 fibrosis treated for 12 or 16 weeks with DCV+SOF+RBV in ALLY-3+ (ITT 100%).^{8,12} Although real-world and clinical study findings must be compared with caution, these data suggest that DCV+SOF without RBV for 12 weeks is effective in non-cirrhotic genotype 3 infection, including patients with advanced fibrosis.

For patients with cirrhosis, it was not possible to evaluate the impact of RBV in the 12-week analysis group due to the small number receiving RBV (16% [8/51]) and the significant number with very short (<10 weeks) actual treatment durations (27% [14/51], including 4 receiving RBV). Thirty-seven patients with cirrhosis (compensated and decompensated) were treated for 10–14 weeks, most (89% [33/37]) without RBV, and their 70% SVR12 (mITT) rate was consistent with the 63% ITT rate in patients with compensated cirrhosis after 12 weeks of DCV+SOF in ALLY-3.⁸ This suggests that RBV may be required for shorter (<24 week) treatment of genotype 3 infection with cirrhosis.

In contrast, SVR12 by mITT for cirrhotic patients treated for 24 weeks either with (82% [45/55]) or without RBV (86% [129/150]) was similar to that by ITT after 12 or 16 weeks of DCV+SOF+RBV in patients with compensated cirrhosis in ALLY-3+ (86%).¹² No additional benefit of RBV was observed in compensated or decompensated cirrhosis, although unrandomized treatment allocation and potential selection bias for RBV use makes it difficult to assess the significance of this. These data are consistent with other real-world findings from the European Union compassionate use programme, in which cirrhotic patients (52% decompensated) treated with DCV+SOF+RBV for 24 weeks received no SVR12 benefit over those treated without RBV (88% vs. 89%).¹³ Other real-world data in less clinically advanced patients with genotype 3 infection from the US Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system¹⁴ and HCV-TARGET observational study¹⁵ have demonstrated SVR rates

of 81% and 82%, respectively, with a 12-week regimen of SOF+RBV+pegIFN. In addition, cirrhotic patients with genotype 3 treated for 12 weeks with SOF plus ledipasvir in the VA cohort had a lower SVR rate (65%),¹⁴ as did similar patients treated for 24 weeks with SOF+RBV without pegIFN in the VA cohort (62%)¹⁴ and in HCV-TARGET (45%),¹⁵ emphasizing the challenging nature of this patient group in real-world settings.

Absolute SVR12 rates differed between compensated and decompensated patients. For Child-Pugh A cirrhosis, SVR12 (mITT) after 24 weeks of treatment was 89% (99/111) without RBV and 83% (30/36) with RBV, while for Child-Pugh B or C, SVR12 was 74% (14/19) without RBV and 75% (9/12) with RBV. The optimal regimen and treatment duration for decompensated cirrhosis remains to be determined. In the United Kingdom cohort of the European Union programme, decompensated genotype 3-infected patients had an SVR12 rate of 71% after 12 weeks of treatment with DCV+SOF+RBV.¹⁶ However, as with the ATU programme, the European programme data are unrandomized, and the results cannot be easily extrapolated, particularly since very few decompensated genotype 3 patients received DCV+SOF without RBV in the UK cohort (n=5).

Although baseline measures of advanced liver disease, such as decompensated cirrhosis and high MELD scores, were associated with higher rates of treatment failure, death, and serious AEs in the ATU programme, overall rates of death (2%) and discontinuations due to AEs (1%) were infrequent. Child-Pugh class and MELD score improved in the majority of decompensated or high-MELD patients for whom baseline and PT12 data were available, although the caveat applies that the number of paired measures was limited and largely restricted to patients achieving SVR12.

The ATU programme represents one of the the largest observational assessments thus far of patients with HCV genotype 3 and advanced disease. However, as with all real-world data, there are limitations for interpretation. One important limitation is that drug allocation was not randomized; both treatment duration and use of RBV were entirely at physician's discretion. This introduces a potential source of bias and an imbalance in group sizes that renders it impossible to fully assess the effect of RBV, particularly since it was more likely to have been prescribed to patients considered harder to treat. Another is that data collection and assessment were non-standardized and based on local practice, resulting in substantial intersite variability in the definitions of certain parameters and the frequency of follow-up, as well as a significant amount of missing data. A third limitation is that data were returned voluntarily; it was not possible to establish whether missing data were due to loss to follow-up, and physicians may have provided follow-up information based on individual results, thus biasing an intention-to-treat analysis to underevaluate efficacy. Finally, collection of safety data was based on pharmacovigilance rather than continuous prospective assessment; it is therefore likely that AEs were under-reported.

Despite these limitations, observations from this cohort of patients with advanced disease—many of whom would not have been eligible for a clinical trial—are consistent with phase 3 studies of DCV+SOF±RBV, and with multinational real-world data from the European Union. All-oral treatment with DCV+SOF±RBV achieved high SVR12 rates and was well tolerated in HCV genotype 3–infected patients with advanced liver disease.

Acknowledgements

The authors thank the physicians and associated healthcare professionals involved in the ATU programme, the patients, and their families. Editorial assistance was provided by N Fitch (ArticulateScience, LLC, London, UK) and funded by Bristol-Myers Squibb.

References

1. Messina JP, Humphreys I, Flaxman A, et al. Global distribution and prevalence of hepatitis C virus genotypes. *Hepatology*. 2015;61:77-87.
2. Asselah T, Rubbia-Brandt L, Marcellin P, Negro F. Steatosis in chronic hepatitis C: why does it really matter? *Gut*. 2006;55:123-130.
3. Nkontchou G, Ziol M, Aout M, et al. HCV genotype 3 is associated with a higher hepatocellular carcinoma incidence in patients with ongoing viral C cirrhosis. *J Viral Hepat*. 2011;18:e516-22.
4. Bochud PY, Cai T, Overbeck K, et al. Genotype 3 is associated with accelerated fibrosis progression in chronic hepatitis C. *J Hepatol*. 2009;51:655-666.
5. McCombs J, Matsuda T, Tonnu-Mihara I, et al. The risk of long-term morbidity and mortality in patients with chronic hepatitis C: results from an analysis of data from a Department of Veterans Affairs Clinical Registry. *JAMA Intern Med*. 2014;174:204-212.
6. Gao M, Nettles RE, Belema M, et al. Chemical genetics strategy identifies an HCV NS5A inhibitor with a potent clinical effect. *Nature*. 2010;465:96-100.

- Accepted Article
7. Sofia MJ, Bao D, Chang W, et al. Discovery of a β -d-2'-deoxy-2'- α -fluoro-2'- β -C-methyluridine nucleotide prodrug (PSI-7977) for the treatment of hepatitis C virus. *J Med Chem.* 2010;53:7202-7218.
 8. Nelson DR, Cooper JN, Lalezari JP, et al. All-oral 12-week treatment with daclatasvir plus sofosbuvir in patients with hepatitis C virus genotype 3 infection: ALLY-3 phase 3 study. *Hepatology.* 2015;61:1127-1135.
 9. American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases and the Infectious Diseases Society of America. Recommendations for testing, managing, and treating hepatitis C. <http://www.hcvguidelines.org> [Accessed 13 January 2017].
 10. Association Française pour l'Etude du Foie. Recommandations AFEF sur la prise en charge des hépatites virales C (Février 2016). <http://www.afef.asso.fr/ckfinder/userfiles/files/recommandations-textes-officiels/Recoavril2016.pdf> [Accessed 13 January 2017].
 11. European Association for the Study of the Liver. EASL Recommendations on Treatment of Hepatitis C 2016. *J Hepatol.* 2017;66:153-194.
 12. Leroy V, Angus P, Bronowicki JP, et al. Daclatasvir, sofosbuvir, and ribavirin for hepatitis C virus genotype 3 and advanced liver disease: a randomized phase III study (ALLY-3+). *Hepatology.* 2016;63:1430-1441.
 13. Welzel TM, Petersen J, Herzer K, et al. Daclatasvir plus sofosbuvir, with or without ribavirin, achieved high sustained virologic response rates in patients with HCV infection and advanced liver disease in a real-world cohort. *Gut.* 2016;65:1861-1870.

14. Ioannou GN, Beste LA, Chang MF, et al. Effectiveness of Sofosbuvir, Ledipasvir/Sofosbuvir, or Paritaprevir/Ritonavir/Ombitasvir and Dasabuvir Regimens for Treatment of Patients With Hepatitis C in the Veterans Affairs National Health Care System. *Gastroenterology*. 2016;151:457-471.e5.
15. Feld JJ, Maan R, Zeuzem S, et al. Effectiveness and Safety of Sofosbuvir-Based Regimens for Chronic HCV Genotype 3 Infection: Results of the HCV-TARGET Study. *Clin Infect Dis*. 2016;63:776-783.
16. Foster GR, Irving WL, Cheung MC, et al. Impact of direct acting antiviral therapy in patients with chronic hepatitis C and decompensated cirrhosis. *J Hepatol*. 2016;64:1224-1231.

Figure legends

Fig. 1. Derivation of the analysis populations

AE, adverse event; ATU, Autorisation Temporaire d'Utilisation (Temporary Authorisation for Use); ITT, intention-to-treat; mITT, modified intention-to-treat; PT12, post-treatment week 12; TAR, Treatment Access Request.

Fig. 2. Sustained virologic response (mITT) according to actual duration of treatment received by (A) treatment regimen; (B) cirrhosis status

CI, confidence interval; VF, virologic failure; wk, weeks.

Table 1. Baseline characteristics

Parameter, n (%) unless otherwise indicated	DCV+SOF	DCV+SOF	DCV+SOF	DCV+SOF	Overall (N=333)
	12 weeks (n=66)	+RBV 12 weeks (n=10)	24 weeks (n=196)	+RBV 24 weeks (n=61)	
Age, median (range), years	54.1 (39–78)	52.2 (44–64)	55.0 (27–79)	53.5 (40–72)	54.2 (27–79)
Male	48 (74)	6 (60)	145 (75)	46 (79)	245 (75)
HCV-RNA at day 0, median (IQR) log ₁₀ IU/mL	5.9 (5.2–6.4)	5.7 (5.5–6.1)	6.2 (5.6–6.5)	5.8 (5.3–6.1)	6.0 (5.4–6.4)
HCV-RNA ≥6 log ₁₀ IU/mL	29 (44)	4 (40)	112 (58)	20 (33)	165 (50)
Advanced fibrosis (F3)	16 (24)	2 (20)	28 (15)	2 (3)	48 (15)
Cirrhosis	43 (65)	8 (80)	150 (77)	55 (90)	256 (77)
Child-Pugh class ^a					
A	32 (76)	8 (100)	111 (85)	36 (75)	187 (82)
B	7 (17)	0	17 (13)	11 (23)	35 (15)
C	3 (7)	0	2 (2)	1 (2)	6 (3)
MELD category at day 0					
<10	20 (57)	6 (86)	39 (57)	16 (46)	81 (56)
10 to <15	8 (23)	0	16 (24)	13 (37)	37 (26)
≥15	7 (20)	1 (14)	13 (19)	6 (17)	27 (19)
Hepatocellular carcinoma	1 (2)	1 (10)	19 (10)	6 (10)	27 (8)
Extrahepatic manifestations	10 (15)	0	20 (11)	3 (5)	33 (10)
without F3 or F4 fibrosis	7 (11)	0	10 (5)	1 (2)	18 (6)
Post-liver transplant HCV recurrence	3 (5)	0	21 (11)	6 (10)	30 (9)
Pre-liver/renal transplant	5 (8)	0	17 (9)	8 (13)	30 (9)
Treatment experienced	41 (62)	7 (70)	145 (75)	44 (72)	237 (72)
SOF experienced	1 (2)	1 (10)	9 (5)	4 (7)	15 (5)
Co-infection with HIV/HBV	5 (8) / 0	4 (40) / 0	35 (18) / 5 (3)	3 (5) / 2 (3)	47 (14) / 7 (2)
Laboratory test results at TAR, median (IQR)					
Platelets, ×10 ⁹ /L	126 (84–178)	128 (69–162)	127 (85–181)	97 (67–147)	122 (80–173)
Albumin, g/L	38 (33–42)	39 (35–40)	38 (35–42)	38 (33–42)	38 (34–42)

ALT, IU/L	84 (53–138)	107 (77–110)	107 (54–155)	76 (50–111)	93 (53–143)
AST, IU/L	81 (57–119)	98 (47–147)	93 (58–144)	91 (56–124)	88 (57–136)
Total bilirubin, $\mu\text{mol/L}$	14 (9–24)	10 (7–18)	14 (9–21)	20 (12–33)	15 (9–24)
Gamma GT, IU/L	114 (55–176)	92 (49–145)	94 (64–156)	95 (65–180)	95 (62–168)
Laboratory abnormalities at day 0^b					
Platelets $<50 \times 10^9/\text{L}$	6 (10)	2 (20)	13 (7)	6 (11)	27 (8)
Albumin $<35 \text{ g/L}$	17 (29)	2 (22)	39 (25)	17 (35)	75 (27)
ALT $>175 \text{ IU/L}$	11 (17)	1 (10)	32 (17)	6 (11)	50 (15)
AST $>200 \text{ IU/L}$	6 (9)	3 (30)	16 (8)	2 (4)	27 (8)
Total bilirubin $>60 \mu\text{mol/L}$	3 (5)	0	5 (3)	2 (5)	10 (4)
Gamma GT >90 (women) or >140 (men) IU/L	23 (39)	3 (38)	61 (34)	20 (39)	107 (36)

Characteristics are at TAR except where indicated as day 0. Percentages are of patients with available data in indicated

category. Missing data for percentages quoted: sex (n=6); previous HCV treatment (n=3); cirrhosis (n=2); Child-Pugh class (n=28); MELD score (n=116); extrahepatic manifestations (n=6); fibrosis stage (n=5); platelets (n=15); albumin (n=57);

ALT (n=9); AST (n=11); total bilirubin (n=70); gamma GT (n=37).

^aCirrhotic patients only.

^bGrade ≥ 3 except for albumin.

ALT, alanine aminotransferase; AST, aspartate aminotransferase; DCV, daclatasvir; gamma GT, gamma- glutamyl transferase; HBV, hepatitis B virus; HCV, hepatitis C virus; HIV, human immunodeficiency virus; IQR, interquartile (25th–75th) range; MELD, Model for End-Stage Liver Disease; RBV, ribavirin; SOF, sofosbuvir; TAR, Treatment Access Request.

Table 2. Sustained virologic response and treatment failure

	DCV+SOF 12 weeks	DCV+SOF +RBV 12 weeks	DCV+SOF 24 weeks	DCV+SOF +RBV 24 weeks	Total
Primary analysis (actual treatment duration)					
N					
mITT	66 ^a	10 ^b	196	61	333
Observed values ^c	61	9	193	60	323
SVR12, n (%) [95% CI]					
mITT	48 (73) [61.0–82.0]	6 (60) [31.3–83.2]	174 (89) [83.6–92.5]	50 (82) [70.5–89.6]	278 (83) [79.1–87.1]
Observed values ^c	48 (79) [66.9–87.1]	6 (67) [35.4–87.9]	174 (90) [85.1–93.6]	50 (83) [72.0–90.7]	278 (86) [81.9–89.4]
Treatment failure, n	18	4	22	11	55
Virologic breakthrough	0	1	2	1	4
Relapse	9	0	14	9	32
Undefined virologic failure ^d	4	2	3	0	9
Non-virologic failure	5	1	3	1	10
Sensitivity analysis (treatment duration initially considered in TAR)					
N					
mITT	55	9	202	57	333 ^e
Observed values ^c	53	9	197	55	323 ^f
SVR12, n (%) [95% CI]					
mITT	40 (73) [59.8–82.7]	8 (89) [56.5–98.0]	178 (88) [82.9–91.9]	43 (75) [62.9–84.8]	278 (83) [79.1–87.1]
Observed values ^c	40 (75) [62.4–85.1]	8 (89) [56.5–98.0]	178 (90) [85.4–93.7]	43 (78) [65.6–87.1]	278 (86) [81.9–89.4]
Treatment failure, n	15	1	24	14	55
Virologic breakthrough	1	0	1	2	4
Relapse	9	1	14	8	32
Undefined virologic failure ^d	3	0	4	2	9
Non-virologic failure	2	0	5	2	10

Non-virologic failure: treatment discontinuation for adverse events or death before post-treatment week 12.

^a10 patients with cirrhosis received <10 weeks of treatment (8 for <6 weeks) of whom 7 were treatment failures.

^b4 patients with cirrhosis received <10 weeks of treatment (2 for <6 weeks) and 3 were treatment failures.

^cExcludes non-virologic treatment failure.

^dLast reported HCV-RNA through post-treatment week 12 was at treatment week 2 or 4 (quantifiable) in all cases.

^eTotal includes 10 patients with a considered duration of 12-24 weeks (n=4) or missing data (n=6).

^fTotal includes 9 patients with a considered duration of 12-24 weeks (n=3) or missing data (n=6).

DCV, daclatasvir; mITT, modified intention-to-treat; RBV, ribavirin; SOF, sofosbuvir; SVR12, sustained virologic response at post-treatment week 12; TAR, Treatment Access Request.

Table 3. Sustained virologic response and treatment failure by cirrhosis status (primary analysis: actual treatment duration)

	DCV+SOF 12 weeks	DCV+SOF +RBV 12 weeks	DCV+SOF 24 weeks	DCV+SOF +RBV 24 weeks	Total
Patients without cirrhosis					
N					
mITT ^a	23	2	44	6	75
SVR12, n (%) [95% CI]					
mITT	22 (96) [79.0–99.2]	2 (100) [34.2–100]	43 (98) [88.2–99.6]	5 (83) [43.6–97.0]	72 (96) [88.9–98.6]
Treatment failure, n	1	0	1	1	3
Virologic breakthrough	0	-	0	0	0
Relapse	1	-	0	1	2
Undefined virologic failure ^b	0	-	1	0	1
Non-virologic failure	0	-	0	0	0
Patients with cirrhosis					
N					
mITT	43	8	150	55	256
Observed values ^c	38	7	147	54	246
SVR12, n (%) [95% CI]					
mITT	26 (60) [45.6–73.6]	4 (50) [21.5–78.5]	129 (86) [79.5–90.7]	45 (82) [69.7–89.8]	204 (80) [74.3–84.2]
Observed values ^c	26 (68) [52.5–80.9]	4 (57) [25.0–84.2]	129 (88) [81.5–92.1]	45 (83) [71.3–91.0]	204 (83) [77.7–87.1]
Treatment failure, n	17	4	21	10	52
Virologic breakthrough	0	1	2	1	4
Relapse	8	0	14	8	30
Undefined virologic failure ^b	4	2	2	0	8
Non-virologic failure	5	1	3	1	10

Excludes 2 patients of unreported cirrhosis status (both DCV+SOF for 24 weeks)

Non-virologic failure: treatment discontinuation for adverse events or death before post-treatment week 12.

^aNo patient had non-virologic failure; observed values analysis not shown.

^bLast reported HCV-RNA through post-treatment week 12 was at treatment week 2 or 4 (quantifiable) in all cases.

^cExcludes non-virologic treatment failure.

DCV, daclatasvir; mITT, modified intention-to-treat; RBV, ribavirin; SOF, sofosbuvir; SVR12, sustained virologic response at post-treatment week 12.

Table 4. On-treatment safety summary by derived regimen (all treated patients; N=516)

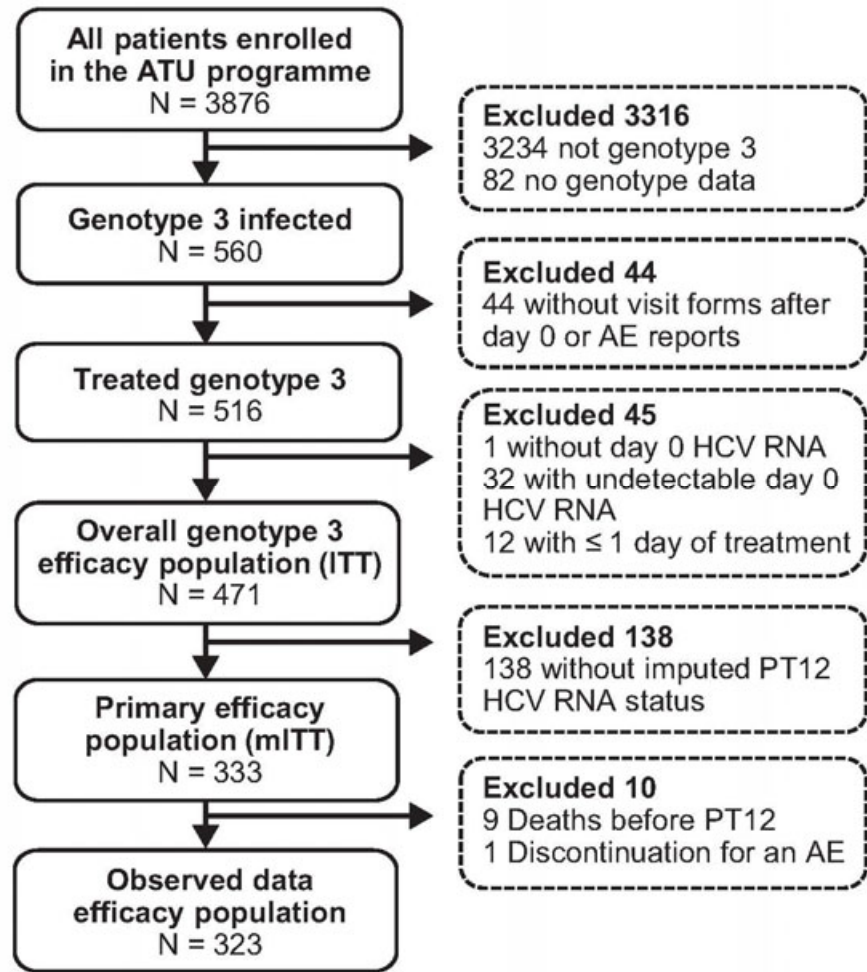
n (%)	DCV+SOF 12 weeks (n=98)	DCV+SOF + RBV 12 weeks (n =24)	DCV+SOF 24 weeks (n=297)	DCV+SOF + RBV 24 weeks (n=85)	Missing Regimen (n=12)	Total (N=516)
Patients with ≥ 1 AE	38 (39)	8 (33)	103 (35)	41 (48)	3 (25)	193 (37)
Patients with ≥ 1 serious AE	12 (12)	5 (21)	34 (11)	21 (25)	2 (17)	74 (14)
Discontinuation due to AEs (excluding death) ^a	2 (2)	2 (11)	1 (<1)	0	NR	5 (1)
Deaths ^b	5 (5)	0	4 (1)	1(1)	1 (8)	11 (2)

^aNeutropenia, dermatitis allergic, unreported event, ascites/HCC/encephalopathy/pneumonia, patient request/unreported AE (n=1 each)

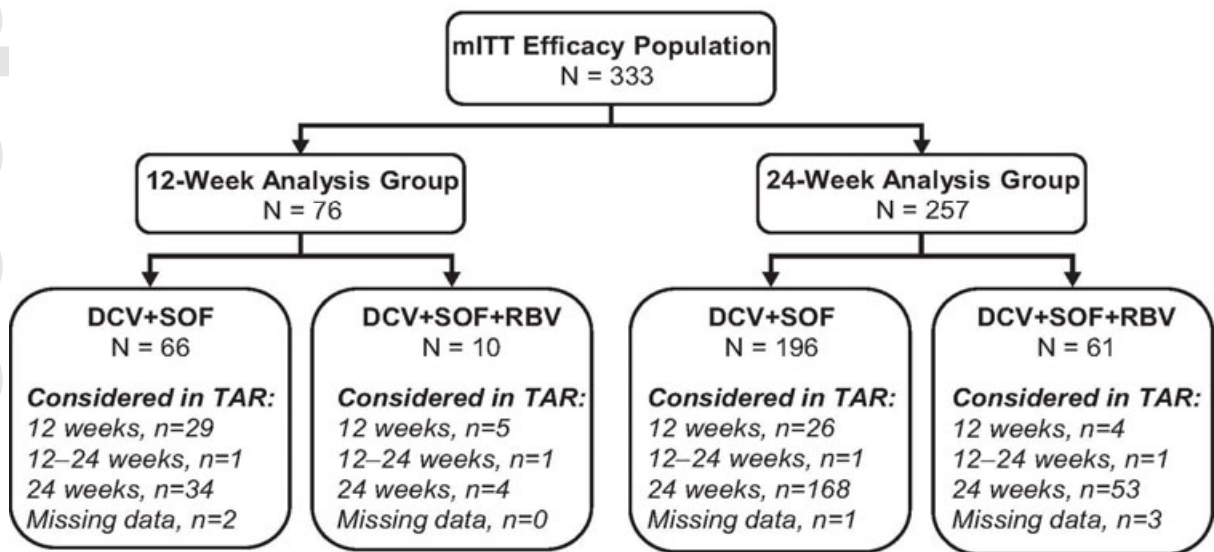
^bDeep vein thrombosis/pulmonary embolism (n=1); multi-organ failure/hepatorenal syndrome (n=1); septic shock with multi-organ failure/intestinal obstruction (n=1), peritonitis (n=1), or lymphoma/chronic hepatitis C/respiratory distress (n=1); haemorrhagic stroke (n=1); renal impairment (n=1); unknown/unreported cause (n=4).

AE, adverse event; ALT, alanine aminotransferase; AST, aspartate aminotransferase; DCV, daclatasvir; gamma GT, gamma-glutamyl transferase; HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma; RBV, ribavirin; SOF, sofosbuvir

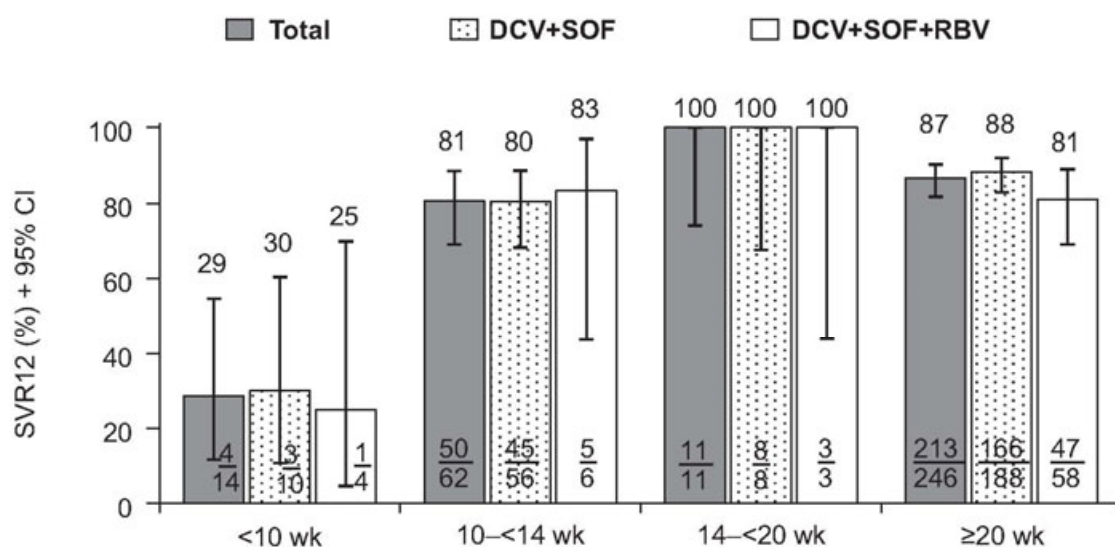
(A)



(B)



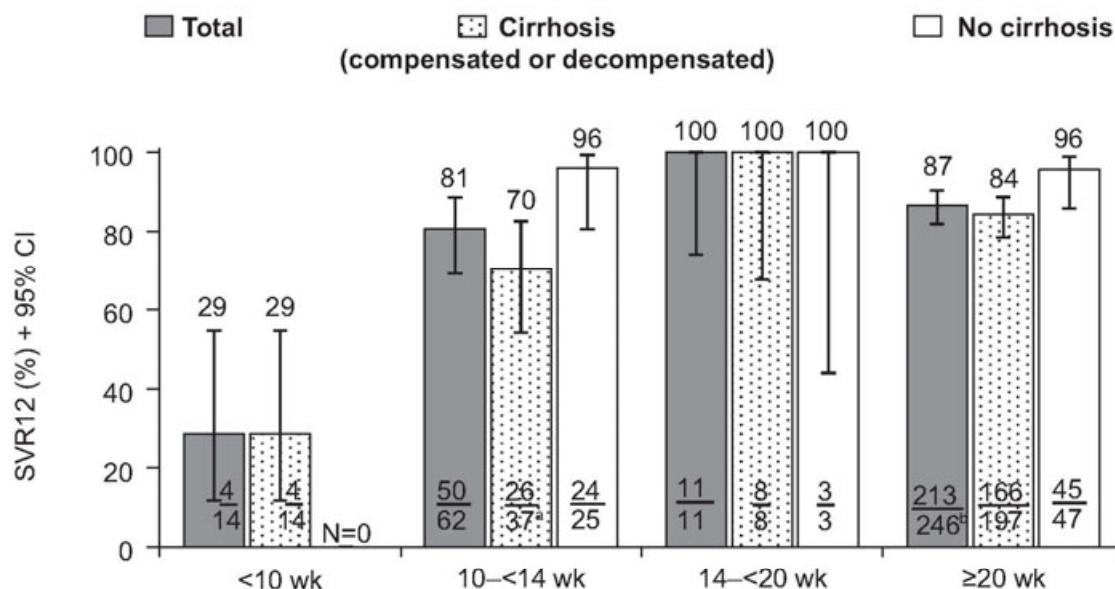
(A)



Treatment failures

Breakthrough	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	3	2	1
Relapse	0	0	0	9	9	0	0	0	0	23	14	9
Undefined VF	6	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0
Nonvirologic	4	3	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	4	3	1

(B)



Treatment failures

Breakthrough	0	0	-	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	3	0
Relapse	0	0	-	9	8	1	0	0	0	23	22	1
Undefined VF	6	6	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	1
Nonvirologic	4	4	-	2	2	0	0	0	0	4	4	0

^aDCV+SOF, n=33; DCV+SOF+RBV, n=4

^bMissing cirrhosis status (n=2)