



How to manage liver patients during war

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SYRIA





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Gas Canister







Aleppo









No power





Shortage of essential products





Before treating liver disease

Other priorities

To survive



Help the others to survive







War Wounded Civilians Program







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H
A



Mahmoud



**How did the war impact
my practice?**



برعاية :

وزارة الصحة

نقابة أطباء سورية

السفارة الفرنسية في سورية

الوكالة الفرنسية للبحوث العلمية

الجمعية السورية لأمراض الهضم

مجموعة العمل السورية لدراسة التهابات الكبد الفيروسيّة

أيام الكبد السورية الفرنسية

**Les Journées Franco-Syriennes
d'Hépatologie**

The French Syrian Liver Days

4 - 5 شباط 2011 قاعة المتنبي، فندق ديدمان، دمشق

Co- directors: **Dr. Maud Lemoine**
Dr. Nabil Antaki

بإدارة : الدكتورة مود لوموان
الدكتور نبيل أنطاكي



National Committee For Viral Hepatitis

- 6 centers in major cities created in 2009
- Screening
- Testing
- Treating

Sanctions

- Imposed by the EU and USA on all Syrian citizens: Embargo
- Importation and exportation of products
- Financial transactions

Sanctions

- Closure of offices of major pharmaceutical companies
- Impossibility to import drugs
- Impossibility to import medical equipment and spare parts
- Inability to repair endoscopes, Fibroscan...

Consequences

- Increase of the prices (10 folds)
- Increase of poverty: patients cannot afford to pay the cost of lab tests and the price of drugs
- Increase of the corruption
- Penalize the people not the government

HCV

- Prevalence: 1% (population of 23 million)
- Testing:
 - LFT
 - Viral load by PCR
 - no genotype testing
 - no Fibroscan, rarely liver biopsy

HCV Genotype Distribution in Syria (2007)

HCV

Treatment

- PEG IFN with ribavirin, if available, still prescribed in national centers
- In the last 2 years, few drugs manufactured in Egypt appeared on the black market: sofosbuvir, ombitasvir, and the combination of SOF and LDV

HBV

- Prevalence: 4-5% (population of 23 million)
- Testing: LFT, viral load by PCR
- No Fibroscan, rarely liver biopsy
- Indication for treatment: elevated ALT, DNA > 10,000 IU/ml

HBV

Treatment

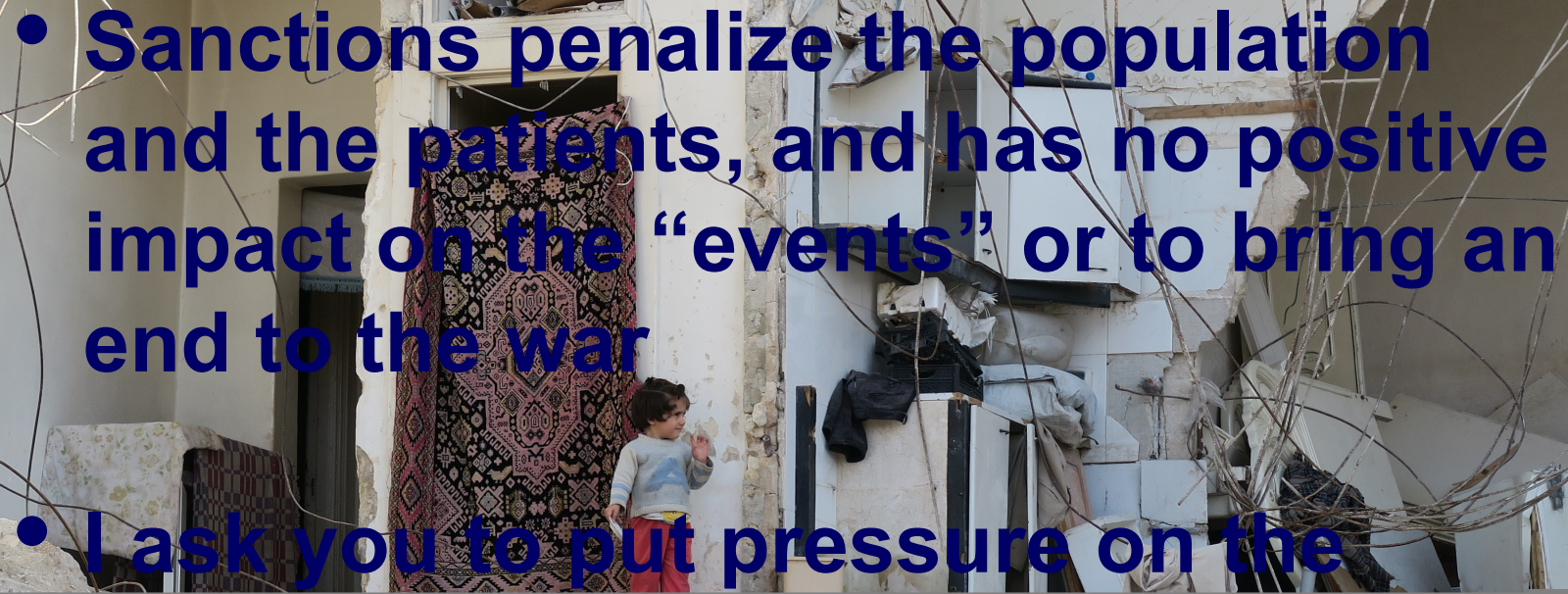
- PEG IFN, if available, used in some cases
- Entecavir and Tenofovir available for many years

CONCLUSIONS (1)

- Treating chronic viral hepatitis is not an easy task during war
- However, we did our best to treat liver patients adequately



CONCLUSIONS (2)

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- A photograph of a child standing in a doorway of a severely damaged building. The building's exterior is crumbling, with exposed rebar and debris. A patterned rug hangs in the doorway. The child is looking out from the doorway. The background shows more damage and debris.
- Sanctions penalize the population and the patients, and has no positive impact on the “events” or to bring an end to the war
 - I ask you to put pressure on the leaders of your countries to lift the sanctions against my country