

Table 1 Demographic and laboratory characteristics of the study participants

Characteristic/laboratory marker	Total (n = 80; 100%)	HCV-RNA-negative (n = 20; 25%)	HCV-RNA-positive (n = 60; 75%)	P-value
<i>Age (years) [Mean (SD)]</i>	41.7 (8.7)	42.1 (9.7)	41.5 (8.4)	0.8
<i>Sex [No. (%)]</i>				0.4
Male	50 (62)	11 (55)	39 (65)	
Female	30 (38)	9 (45)	21 (35)	
<i>Residence [No. (%)]</i>				1
Urban	36 (45)	9 (45)	27 (45)	
Rural	44 (55)	11 (55)	33 (55)	
<i>ALT level (U/L) [Mean (SD)]</i>	41.9 (26.6)	22.6 (8.9)	48.4 (27.4)	< 0.001
<i>HCV Ab-positive [No. (%)]</i>	80 (100)	20 (100)	60 (100)	1
<i>HBsAg-positive [No. (%)]</i>	4 (5)	0 (0)	4 (6.7)	0.2
<i>Positive for Schistosoma mansoni antibodies [No. (%)]</i>	43 (54)	14 (70)	29 (48)	0.09

P < 0.05 considered statistically significant.

HCV = hepatitis C virus.

SD = standard deviation; ALT = alanine aminotransferase; HCV Ab = hepatitis C virus antibody; HBsAg = hepatitis B surface antigen.