

Supplementary Table 1 PCR primer sequences and expected product sizes

SNP	Primer	Sequence (5'-...-3')	Product size (bp)
rs12979860 (C/T)	F	GCGCTTATCGCATACGGCTA	189
	R	GGGGCGAGGGGCITTTGCT	
rs8099917 (T/G)	F	AGTCTTGTATTTACCTCCTGGAG	307
	R	GCACTAGCTCTTGTCAATTCGCT	
rs12980275 (A/G)	F	GAAGGAAGTTCTGACACATGCT	280
	R	TGGTCCTAGTGGTGTCTTGCT	
rs4803217 (C/A)	F	ATAAATAGCGACTGGGTGAC	91
	R	TGTGTCTGACCCTTCCGCA	

Abbreviations: SNP – single nucleotide polymorphism; F – forward primer; R – reverse primer

Supplementary Table 2 Association between *IFNL3* (*IL28B*) gene SNPs and severity of chronic hepatitis C

SNP	Allele / genotype	<i>n</i> (%)	<i>n</i> (%)	Comparison	OR (95% CI)	<i>P</i>
GRADING¹		G0-G1 (<i>n</i> = 48)	G2-G4 (<i>n</i> = 66)	G0-G1 vs G2-G4		
rs4803217 (C/A)	C / A	48 (50.00) / 48 (50.00)	75 (56.82) / 57 (43.18)	C / A	1.316 (0.776-2.231)	0.308
	CC	12 (25.00)	19 (28.79)	CC / CA+AA	0.824 (0.355-1.916)	0.655
	CA	24 (50.00)	37 (56.07)	CC+CA / AA	0.536 (0.210-1.369)	0.188
	AA	12 (25.00)	10 (15.15)			
rs12979860 (C/T)	C / T	47 (48.96) / 49 (51.04)	77 (58.33) / 55 (41.67)	C / T	0.685 (0.404-1.163)	0.160
	CC	10 (20.83)	21 (31.82)	CC / CT+TT	0.564 (0.237-1.343)	0.194
	CT	27 (56.25)	35 (53.03)	CC+CT / TT	0.601 (0.232-1.556)	0.290
	TT	11 (22.92)	10 (15.15)			
rs8099917 (T/G)	T / G	55 (57.29) / 41 (42.71)	88 (66.67) / 44 (33.33)	T / G	0.671 (0.390-1.154)	0.148
	TT	15 (31.25)	28 (42.42)	TT / TG+GG	0.617 (0.282-1.348)	0.224
	TG	25 (52.08)	32 (48.48)	TT+TG / GG	0.5 (0.161-1.550)	0.224
	GG	8 (16.17)	6 (9.10)			
rs12980275 (A/G)	A / G	49 (51.04) / 47 (48.96)	83 (62.88) / 49 (37.12)	A / G	0.616 (0.361-1.050)	0.074
	AA	12 (25.00)	25 (37.88)	AA / AG+GG	0.547 (0.241-1.243)	0.147
	AG	25 (52.08)	33 (50.00)	AA+AG / GG	0.464 (0.171-1.261)	0.127
	GG	11 (22.92)	8 (12.12)			
STAGING¹		S0-S1 (<i>n</i> = 69)	S2-S4 (<i>n</i> = 45)	S0-S1 vs S2-S4		
rs4803217 (C/A)	C / A	75 (54.35) / 63 (45.65)	48 (53.33) / 42 (46.67)	C / A	1.042 (0.612-1.774)	0.886
	CC	20 (28.99)	11 (24.44)	CC / CA+AA	1.262 (0.536-2.969)	0.597
	CA	35 (50.72)	26 (57.78)	CC+CA / AA	0.849 (0.324-2.226)	0.740
	AA	14 (20.29)	8 (17.78)			
rs12979860 (C/T)	C / T	77 (55.80) / 61 (44.20)	47 (52.22) / 43 (47.78)	C / T	1.155 (0.678-1.968)	0.597

	CC	19 (27.54)	12 (26.67)	CC / CT+TT	1.045 (0.449-2.435)	0.920
	CT	39 (56.52)	23 (51.11)	CC+CT / TT	1.507 (0.581-3.900)	0.399
	TT	11 (15.94)	10 (22.22)			
rs8099917 (T/G)	T / G	86 (62.32) / 52 (37.68)	57 (63.33) / 33 (36.67)	T / G	0.958 (0.553-1.659)	0.886
	TT	24 (34.78)	19 (42.22)	TT / TG+GG	0.730 (0.337-1.579)	0.424
	TG	38 (55.07)	19 (42.22)	TT+TG / GG	1.632 (0.531-5.015)	0.390
	GG	7 (10.14)	7 (15.56)			
rs12980275 (A/G)	A / G	80 (57.97) / 58 (42.03)	52 (57.78) / 38 (42.22)	A / G	1.008 (0.589-1.726)	1
	AA	22 (31.88)	15 (33.33)	AA / AG+GG	0.936 (0.421-2.084)	0.862
	AG	36 (52.17)	22 (48.89)	AA+AG / GG	1.140 (0.420-3.098)	0.791
	GG	11 (15.94)	8 (17.78)			
BASELINE HCV RNA ²		≤400 000 (<i>n</i> = 149)	>400 000 (<i>n</i> = 47)	≤400 000 <i>vs</i> >400 000		
rs4803217 (C/A)	C / A	161 (54.03) / 137 (45.97)	54 (57.45) / 40 (42.55)	C / A	0.871 (0.545-1.390)	0.560
	CC	39 (26.17)	15 (31.91)	CC / CA+AA	0.756 (0.370-1.545)	0.443
	CA	83 (55.7)	24 (51.06)	CC+CA / AA	0.927 (0.389-2.207)	0.864
	AA	27 (18.12)	8 (17.02)			
rs12979860 (C/T)	C / T	161 (54.03) / 137 (45.97)	51 (54.25) / 43 (45.74)	C / T	0.991 (0.622-1.578)	1
	CC	40 (26.84)	13 (27.66)	CC / CT+TT	0.960 (0.460-2.001)	0.920
	CT	81 (54.36)	25 (53.19)	CC+CT / TT	1.023 (0.444-2.359)	1
	TT	28 (18.79)	9 (19.15)			
rs8099917 (T/G)	T / G	186 (62.42) / 112 (37.58)	66 (70.21) / 28 (29.79)	T / G	0.505 (0.427-1.162)	0.169
	TT	53 (35.57)	22 (46.81)	TT / TG+GG	0.627 (0.323-1.219)	0.167
	TG	80 (53.69)	22 (46.81)	TT+TG / GG	0.567 (0.158-2.038)	0.379
	GG	16 (10.74)	3 (6.38)			

rs12980275 (A/G)	A / G	171 (57.38) / 127 (42.62)	56 (59.57) / 38 (40.43)	A / G	0.914 (0.570-1.464)	0.708
	AA	47 (31.54)	17 (36.17)	AA / AG+GG	0.813 (0.409-1.618)	0.555
	AG	77 (51.68)	22 (46.81)	AA+AG / GG	1.017 (0.425-2.438)	0.969
	GG	25 (16.78)	8 (17.02)			
BASELINE ALT ³		Normal (<i>n</i> = 67)	Abnormal (<i>n</i> = 129)	Normal vs Abnormal		
rs4803217 (C/A)	C / A	73 (54.48) / 61 (45.52)	142 (55.04) / 116 (44.96)	C / A	0.978 (0.643-1.487)	0.920
	CC	17 (25.37)	37 (28.68)	CC / CA+AA	0.845 (0.433-1.652)	0.623
	CA	39 (58.21)	68 (52.71)	CC+CA / AA	1.164 (0.513-2.549)	0.705
	AA	11 (16.42)	24 (18.60)			
rs12979860 (C/T)	C / T	74 (55.22) / 60 (44.78)	138 (53.49) / 120 (46.51)	C / T	1.073 (0.705-1.631)	0.740
	CC	18 (26.87)	35 (27.13)	CC / CT+TT	0.987 (0.50-1.919)	0.968
	CT	38 (56.72)	68 (52.71)	CC+CT / TT	1.285 (0.591-2.794)	0.526
	TT	11 (16.42)	26 (20.16)			
rs8099917 (T/G)	T / G	87 (64.93) / 47 (35.07)	165 (63.95) / 93 (36.05)	T / G	1.043 (0.674-1.614)	0.841
	TT	26 (38.31)	49 (37.98)	TT / TG+GG	1.035 (0.564-1.899)	0.911
	TG	35 (52.24)	67 (51.94)	TT+TG / GG	1.139 (0.413-3.147)	0.801
	GG	6 (8.96)	13 (10.08)			
rs12980275 (A/G)	A / G	77 (57.46) / 57 (42.54)	150 (58.14) / 108 (41.86)	A / G	0.973 (0.638-1.484)	0.888
	AA	21 (31.34)	43 (33.33)	AA / AG+GG	0.913 (0.485-1.719)	0.778
	AG	35 (52.24)	64 (49.61)	AA+AG / GG	1.047 (0.474-2.313)	0.0910
	GG	11 (16.42)	22 (17.05)			
BASELINE TBIL		Normal (<i>n</i> = 169)	Abnormal (<i>n</i> = 20)	Normal vs Abnormal		
rs4803217 (C/A)	C / A	188 (55.62) / 150 (44.38)	20 (50.00) / 20 (50.00)	C / A	1.253 (0.650-2.415)	0.498
	CC	47 (27.81)	5 (25.00)	CC / CA+AA	1.156 (0.398-3.359)	0.790
	CA	94 (55.62)	10 (50.00)	CC+CA / AA	1.679 (0.564-4.996)	0.348

	AA	28 (16.57)	5 (25.00)			
rs12979860 (C/T)	C / T	185 (54.73) / 153 (45.27)	19 (47.50) / 21 (52.50)	C / T	1.336 (0.693-2.577)	0.386
	CC	46 (27.22)	5 (25.00)	CC / CT+TT	1.122 (0.386-3.262)	0.833
	CT	93 (55.03)	9 (45.00)	CC+CT / TT	1.986 (0.706-5.589)	0.187
	TT	30 (17.75)	6 (30.00)			
rs8099917 (T/G)	T / G	216 (63.91) / 122 (36.09)	27 (67.50) / 13 (32.50)	T / G	0.853 (0.424-1.713)	0.655
	TT	64 (37.87)	9 (45.00)	TT / TG+GG	0.745 (0.293-1.896)	0.536
	TG	88 (52.07)	9 (45.00)	TT+TG / GG	0.994 (0.212-4.657)	0.993
	GG	17 (10.06)	2 (10.00)			
rs12980275 (A/G)	A / G	198 (58.58) / 140 (41.42)	21 (52.50) / 19 (47.50)	A / G	1.280 (0.663-2.469)	0.462
	AA	54 (31.92)	7 (35.00)	AA / AG+GG	0.872 (0.329-2.310)	0.783
	AG	90 (53.25)	7 (35.00)	AA+AG / GG	2.469 (0.867-7.031)	0.082
	GG	25 (14.79)	6 (30.00)			

Abbreviations: 95% CI - 95% confidence interval; OR - odds ratio; SNP - single nucleotide polymorphism; ALT - alanine aminotransferase (abnormal: > 40); AST - asparagine aminotransferase (abnormal: > 38); TBIL - total bilirubin (abnormal: > 1.2)

¹Scheuer classification for grading and staging of chronic hepatitis

²Viral load threshold $\leq 600\,000$ / $> 600\,000$ and $\leq 800\,000$ / $> 800\,000$ were also used in comparison and no significant results were obtained. Moreover, median values were compared between genotypes and no significant results were obtained (data not shown).

³ALT threshold \leq / $> 3X$ the upper limit of normal of ALT was also used also used in comparison and no significant results were obtained (data not shown).

