Patients included in the study (n=210)

HCV RNA <50 IU/mL at week 4 (n = 143)

Group A1 (n= 72)
12 weeks treatment

72 patients completed the treatment

72 patients completed follow up period of 6 months

HCV RNA >50 IU/mL at week 4 (n = 67)

Group A2 (n= 71)
24 weeks treatment

66 patients completed the treatment

66 patients completed follow up period of 6 months

Group B (n= 67)
24 weeks treatment

60 patients completed the treatment

60 patients completed follow up period of 6 months

Randomization

5 patients discontinued treatment

7 patients discontinued treatment

Follow-up

24 weeks’ post-treatment

Figure 1. CLEO study design. *During the treatment phase, all patients received PEG-IFN-α-2a 180 μg/wk + ribavirin 800–1200 mg/day. CLEO = Club EpatoLogi Ospedalieri; PEG-IFN = pegylated interferon; RVR = rapid virological response.