ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

METHODS AND COMPOUNDS FOR ALTERING THE LOAD OF HEPATITIS VIRUS

The present invention relates to a method for altering the load of a Hepatitis virus present in a host organism that is infected with such virus. This method comprises the modulation of the complex formation of a heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoprotein (hnRNP) K or a functional fragment thereof with a regulatory region on the Hepatitis virus genome. Additionally, the invention relates to methods of identifying compounds that are able to modulate said complex formation. The present invention also relates to compounds that are able to achieve such modulation, such as nucleic acid molecules, immunoglobulins, antagonists and agonists of cell surface receptors, compounds that modulate the degree of phosphorylation of hnRNP K proteins as well as compounds that modulate the intracellular quantity of hnRNP K proteins. Finally, the invention relates to the use of such compounds for the diagnosis of Hepatitis infection.

Fig. 16