

Amongst none of the 130 professional blood donors available for study HBsAb could be detected. 9 out of 900 *i.e.* 1% of professional blood donors were sero-positive for HBsAg. While 1 out of 300 voluntary donors *i.e.* 0.33% revealed HBsAg in serum. HBsAg, sero-positive cases were more or less uniformly distributed amongst A, B, O and AB blood groups. The liver function tests of all sero-positive professional blood donors showed minor derangement of one or more liver function tests. 6 out of 9 donors revealed increase of S.G.O.T. and S.G.P.T., 1 case showed increase in serum bilirubin, and serum cholesterol values were high in 4 out of 9 donors. Liver biopsies of 4 sero-positive professional donors revealed changes of non-specific reactionary hepatitis in 2. While in the other 2 donors livers were unremarkable. In

prospective study of liver biopsies, 1 out of 70 cases showed sero-positivity for HBsAg. The sero-positivity was found in 1 case of chronic aggressive hepatitis. The rest of 5 cases of chronic aggressive hepatitis, were negative for HBsAg. The sera from other histologically diagnosed cases *i.e.* acute viral hepatitis, hepatic cirrhosis, Indian childhood cirrhosis, metastatic carcinoma of liver and other miscellaneous diseases were negative for HBsAg.

In all prospective and retrospective study a total of 25 liver biopsies of acute viral hepatitis, hepatic cirrhosis, chronic aggressive hepatitis, Indian childhood cirrhosis, biliary obstruction, non-specific reactionary hepatitis and other miscellaneous liver diseases, HBsAg could not be demonstrated in the liver tissues.

## 28 QUANTITATIVE ESTIMATION OF HBsAg IN ASYMPTOMATIC CARRIERS AND PATIENTS OF LIVER DISEASE

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Quantitative estimation of HBsAg in the serum has been carried out in sixty antigen positive cases, with the diagnosis of acute and fulminant hepatitis, chronic persistent and chronic active hepatitis, cirrhosis, Hepatoma and asymptomatic carriers. The general consensus of opinion among the hepatologists is that the titre of antigen has no relation to the severity of liver disease in acute hepatitis, except in the fulminant form of the disease, where low levels of antigen have been reported.

However, in patients with chronic antigenemia; there appears to be an inverse relationship of antigen level and severity of liver injury. Thus highest antigen titres have been reported in asymptomatic carriers and lowest in chronic active hepatitis.

Using hemagglutination inhibition technique the antigen titres have been estimated in patients of liver diseases and in asymptomatic carriers to see the relation of antigen titre and severity of liver damage in our patients.