

Lipids & lipoproteins in amoebic liver abscess

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Fasting blood samples from 70 patients of amoebic liver abscess during acute state of illness and 62 normal healthy controls were tested for lipids and lipoproteins *i.e.*, VLDL, LDL and HDL, and caloric intake from various nutrients was calculated. Mean caloric intake was significantly low in patients with amoebic liver abscess (ALA) as compared to control subjects. The levels of cholesterol and its lipoproteins were also significantly low with non-significant changes in triglyceride levels in patients with ALA. In 17 patients with ALA, fasting blood sample was also obtained 15-20 days after discontinuation of treatment, where clinical recovery had taken place. In these 17 patients, there was no change in lipids and lipoproteins level, before and after treatment. During this period there was no significant change in their caloric intake. The result of the present study showed failure of an early biochemical recovery in patients of amoebic liver abscess who had clinically recovered.

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Significance of circulating HBsAg/IgM complexes in viral hepatitis type B

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In sixty seven patients of viral hepatitis type B and 67 serum samples from healthy blood donors who were carriers of HBs Ag, circulating HBs Ag/IgM complexes were tested by an enzyme immunoassay based on the selective absorption of IgM on a solid phase and results were related to presence of HBe markers. HBsAg/IgM complexes were found to be more common in HBsAg positive blood donors (61.1%) in comparison with acute type hepatitis B *i.e.*, acute viral hepatitis (30.8%), fulminant hepatitis (35.5%) and sub-acute hepatitis (40.0%). The complexes were found to be present with HBe markers in 83 per cent of blood donors, suggesting that both HBsAg/IgM complexes and HBe-markers were associated with chronic carrier state in high proportion. In 82 per cent of FH and 50 per cent of SAH, these complexes were present in absence of any of HBe-marker. The absence of HBe-markers in these subjects was assumed to be due to sampling during 'e'-window period or the low sensitivity of the commercial HBe-EIA kit.

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