

SEROLOGICAL PATTERN OF HEPATITIS VIRAL MARKERS IN THE PATIENTS OF SUBACUTE HEPATIC FAILURE (SAHF).

S. Acharya, M. Irshad, Y.K. Joshi, B.M. Gandhi & B.N. Tandon, Department of Gastroenterology & Human Nutrition, A.I.I.M.S., New Delhi-110029.

Subacute hepatic failure (SAHF) is a severe form of viral hepatitis associated with high mortality and a distinct clinical, biochemical and histological profile. The exact etiopathogenesis in this disease is not yet clear. The present report, therefore, describes the possible etiology and serological profile of different hepatitis viral markers in the patients of SAHF. A total number of 79 sera from SAHF patients were tested for hepatitis A, B and D markers. NANB viral hepatitis was diagnosed on exclusion criteria. The results obtained demonstrated hepatitis A, B, D and NANB in 30 per cent, 34.1 per cent, 3.8 per cent and 58.2 per cent cases, respectively. 46 per cent cases of NANB patients indicated a super infection of NANB virus in HBsAg carriers. Similarly, super infection of HAV and HDV was noted in 2 out of 3 cases from each group. In 27 patients with HBV infections, HBsAg, HBV-associated DNA polymerase and HBeAg were present in 33.3 per cent, 41 per cent and 15 per cent cases, respectively. Anti-HBs and Anti-pre-S were detected in 11.1 per cent and 10 per cent cases whereas anti-HBe was totally absent. Based on serological profile, SAHF seemed to be different from fulminant and chronic active hepatitis B. Besides, regular HBV-replication in SAHF patients raised the possibility of beneficial use of anti-viral therapy in them.