

ETIOLOGICAL SPECTRUM OF VIRAL HEPATITIS AND VIRUS A AND B INFECTION IN NORTH INDIA

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Etiological spectrum of viral hepatitis and virus A and B infection was studied. Virus A is the commonest cause (67%) of hepatitis in children, but it is less frequent cause (14%) of hepatitis in adults. Non A non B virus is the cause of hepatitis in 44% adults and 2+% children. Only 9% hepatitis in children is due to virus B while this virus is the cause of hepatitis in 42% adults. NANB is the cause of epidemic of hepatitis in general population. Virus A is recorded as the etiological agent for an epidemic at a children's school. NANB is the most important etiological agent for acute liver failure (55%) and subacute hepatic failure (51%). Virus B is the next important cause of these conditions (33%, 42%) and rarely virus A is the etiology of acute (12% or subacute (4%) liver failure. Exposure to virus A occurs in early childhood by the age of 10 years (78%) and by adulthood (94%) have evidence of virus A infection. Virus B carrier rate is 5% and HBsAg positivity rate is to the maximum of 38%

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DISSEMINATED INTRAVASCULAR COAGULATION IN HEPATIC ENCEPHALOPATHY

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Thirty patients of hepatic encephalopathy of varied etiology were studied for evidence of disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC). DIC was detected in 13.33% of patients (four out of thirty). All the patients had bedside laboratory proof, clinical evidence of DIC viz. marked bleeding tendency, deepening unconsciousness and progressive impairment of renal function. Rigid criteria for diagnosis of DIC were adhered to, including rise in Fibrinogen degradation products (FDP) in serum. This may account for low incidence of DIC in the present study.

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