

per cent during acute phase of illness. 7-10 days after the treatment was given to these patients, the test was repeated in 13 subjects. Five subjects (18%) showed positive NBT test. The mean score in recovered patients was  $16.5 \pm 7.7$  per cent. The result showed that phagocytic function is deranged in patients with amoebic liver abscess. This may be of significance to pathophysiology of this disease.

AGE, SEX, WEIGHT AND HEIGHT

#### 54. CELLULAR IMMUNE REACTIVITY IN FULMINANT HEPATIC FAILURE AND SUBACUTE HEPATIC FAILURE

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Role played by immune system in hepatocyte destruction is not yet known.

An attempt was made to study the cellular mediated immunity in patients with fulminant hepatic failure (FH) and subacute hepatic failure (SAH).

Migration inhibition factor (MIF) was investigated using purified preparation of HBsAg (Maini et al. 1973). Both HBV positive and negative patients were

chosen for the study. A diminished activity of MIF was found in 3/8 patients

of FH and in 3/8 patients of SAH. Survival patients in acute stage had a

tendency of diminished MIF. It suggests that inhibition by HBsAg in acute

stages may indicate clearing of the antigen while in persisting antigenaemia

no response may be found. Peripheral blood leucocyte cell population of

thymus dependent (T) and thymus independent (B) was studied by the

method of Naess, A. (1980). It showed an increase in T-active cells in the

patients of SAH ( $51.75 \pm 8.40$ ) compared to healthy controls ( $48.6 \pm 5.5$ ) and

FH ( $48 \pm 5.6$ ). Number of T-total cells remained similar in all the three

categories. B cell population by rosette formation with antibody sheep

erythrocytes (EA rosettes) showed an increase in SAH ( $34.3 \pm 10.6$ ) compared

to healthy controls ( $28.6 \pm 10.4$ ) and FH ( $26 \pm 14.6$ ). An increase in T-active

cells in SAH may be due to an increase in null cell population.

Maini, R.N., Roffe, L.M., et al (1973): Allergy, 45:308. Naess, A. (1980):

Lymphocyte subpopulations in cerebrospinal fluid and blood. Thesis

submitted to University of Bergen, Norway.