

ABSTRACT FORM  
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Title: (CAPITAL LETTERS): ANTI-PRE-S ANTIBODIES  
IN PATIENTS WITH FULMINANT HEPATIC FAILURE

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Abstract

There are reports available to show the prevalence of anti-pre-S antibodies in patients with different types of hepatitis B virus (HBV) infections. However, very little is known about its significance in patients with fulminant hepatic failure. Present study describes the significance of anti-pre-S antibodies in patients of fulminant hepatitis with some evidence of HBV infection. Anti-pre-S was tested in 38 sera from patients with fulminant hepatitis (positive for HBsAg and/or IgM anti-HBc) using a specific ELISA technique. Anti-pre-S activity was detected in 50 per cent cases positive for HBsAg but negative for IgM anti-HBc, 12.5 per cent cases positive for both and 75 per cent cases negative for HBsAg but positive for IgM anti-HBc. Presence of HBV-specific DNA polymerase was high in all the three groups whereas anti-HBs positivity was low. Anti-pre-S activity was observed both in the presence, as well as, absence of DNA polymerase activity. High anti-pre-S level in fulminant hepatitis B patients was assumed to be involved in the fast clearance of HBsAg from circulation without causing any hepatic necrosis.

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