

CHARACTERISTICS AND PROPHYLACTIC VALUE FOR HEPATITIS OF IMMUNE SERUM GLOBULIN (ISG) COMMONLY USED IN INDIA.

B.N.Tandon, B.M.Gandhi, Y.K.Joshi & L. Bijlani

~~Rajgarhia~~ Liver Unit, Department of Gastroenterology & H.N.U., A.I.I.M.S., New Delhi-110029.

Five batches of ISG (Curewell India Limited) prepared between May 1980 to May 1982, have been tested for anti-HAV (HAVAB), HB_sAg (Auszyme). Three batches have anti-HAV positive at 1:300 and two batches have a titre of 1:500. All the batches were negative for HB_sAg.

120 samples from different age groups of healthy persons were tested for anti-HAV titre. 72.5%, 16.5%, 5.2% and 5.8% were positive in <1:75, 75, 150 and 300 dilution respectively.

An ISG dose of 0.06ml/Kg wt. and a lower dose of 0.04 ml/kg. wt. was administered to 6 and 5 volunteers respectively. Anti-HAV titres were estimated at 0, 10, 20, 30, 60, 160 and 230 days period. Only 2 subjects showed a rise from 1:75 to 1:150 and in one to 1:300. Values fell back to the original after 10 days in one and 30 days in the other.

It is concluded that anti-HAV titres are relatively low in normal population and in the ISG, manufactured in India from placental source. The rise of anti-HAV titres in healthy persons after intramuscular administration of ISG is transient and in a very few patients.

Most of the epidemics reported in India in adults are NANB. ISG is being advocated for prophylaxis for high risk groups even in these epidemics. A prospective study was carried out in a NANB epidemic and prophylactic ISG was administered to 316 contacts and exposed person while 290 were kept as the controls. Both the groups were followed upto 3 months. Only 2 of 262 from ISG administered group developed anicteric hepatitis while 7 of 287 control subject developed anicteric hepatitis. These differences are not statistically significant but suggest a favourable trend for prevention of NANB through administration of ISG.