

## **Hepatitis E epidemic with bimodal peak in a town of north India.**

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### **Hepatitis E epidemic with bimodal peak in a town of north India.**

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### **Abstract**

**Introduction:** An epidemic of viral hepatitis occurred in Mandi Gobindgarh town of Punjab in northern India during year 2005-06. An attempt was made to study the outbreak clinically, serologically, and etiologically.

**Methods:** Line listing and spot mapping of all cases of jaundice presented to civil hospital was done. An active search of cases was made through house-to-house visit with the help of 33 teams and 6 supervisors. Twenty two blood samples collected from acute cases were tested for anti-HAV IgM and anti-HEV IgM by ELISA. HEV specific PCR was also carried out. Sanitary survey was also done and water samples were tested for coliforms.

**Results:** In house to house survey 3170 cases of jaundice were reported; of them 2171 (68.5%) were males. Mean age was 28.8 years. Overall attack rate was 5.2%. The epidemic continued for more than a year and bimodal peak was observed. Civil hospital campus which has separate water supply had no jaundice case. About 95% blood samples from icteric patients were found to be positive for IgM and IgG antibodies of HEV. Eighteen persons died during the epidemic, mostly in old age group. Case fatality ratio was 0.57%. No deaths occurred among 17 pregnant women who had developed hepatitis.

**Conclusion:** The epidemic was caused by hepatitis E virus, which was transmitted due to faecal contamination of municipal water supply.

### **Reference**

Tandon BN, Joshi YK, Jain SK, Gandhi BM, Mathieson LR, Tandon HD. An epidemic of non-A, non-B hepatitis in North India. Indian J Med Res 1982; 75: 739-44.