

The three viruses of non-A, non-B hepatitis

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Abstract

THE name "non-A, non-B hepatitis" includes infections of the liver caused by at least three viruses. These three viruses may be provisionally designated "blood-transmitted", "coagulation-factor-transmitted", and "epidemic waterborne". A universally recognised specific serological test has not yet been developed for any of the three viruses of non-A, non-B hepatitis. The diagnosis of non-A, non-B hepatitis remains based on the exclusion by serological tests of the known aetiological agents of hepatitis-hepatitis A virus (HAV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis delta virus, cytomegalovirus, and Epstein-Barr virus. Symptomatic infections caused by all three viruses of non-A, non-B hepatitis may be clinically similar, with jaundice, nausea, and dark urine, and the distinction between the viruses is based on marked differences in other clinical and epidemiological characteristics.

References

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