

Childhood hepatitis

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Introduction:

The term hepatitis implies hepatic inflammation and hepatic necrosis, which leads to characteristic constellation of clinical, biochemical and histological changes. Various forms of hepatitis are acute, subacute and chronic. Acute hepatitis can be infective (most common), toxic, genetically determined or cryptogenic in etiology. In this review we shall be focusing on the recent advances related to acute viral hepatitis (AVH). Viruses causing hepatitis are hepatitis A (HAV), hepatitis B (HBV), hepatitis C (HCV), hepatitis delta (HDV), hepatitis E (HEV) and other viruses. Of the sporadic form of acute viral hepatitis in children, HAV is the commonest (32.6%), followed by HEV (22.2%), HBV (7.3%), HDV (1.1%), cytomegalovirus (0.4%) and unknown (19.5%)¹.

In our experience at a tertiary centre, HAV constituted 60% and hepatitis B (35%) of sporadic acute hepatitis in children²

Reference

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