Fulminant viral hepatitis: Indian experience

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/20636933
DOI: 10.1111/j.1440-1746.1989.tb00821.x ·
Source: PubMed

Cited in:

Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology 4(2):161-5, 1989

Fulminant viral hepatitis: Indian experience

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Abstract

Thirty-six patients with fulminant viral hepatitis were studied. Enzyme immunoassay was used to detect the presence of HBsAg, IgM anti-HBc, and IgM anti-HAV. Non-A, non-B virus was the most common aetiological agent (61.1%) followed by hepatitis B virus (HBV; 30.6%) and hepatitis A virus (8.3%). Presence of IgM anti-HBc confirmed the diagnosis of HBV infection in three cases who were negative for HBsAg. Similarly, in one case who was positive for HBsAg, absence of IgM anti-HBc suggested superinfection with some other agent. Survival was significantly higher (P less than 0.01) in the hepatitis A virus (HAV) group (66.6%) compared with non-A, non-B (31.2%) and HBV groups (27.3%). Fever at the onset of illness was seen in all patients with HAV, 54.5% of patients with HBV and 38.88% of patients with non-A, non-B infection (P less than 0.01). The median time interval between the first symptom and the onset of encephalopathy was 16, 13 and 8 days in HAV, HBV and non-A, non-B groups, respectively, but this difference was statistically not significant (P greater than 0.05)

Reference

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