

# **Incidental detection of hepatitis B and C viruses and their coinfection in a hospital-based general population in tertiary care hospital of Uttar Pradesh**

<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/324916569>

DOI 10.4103/jfmmpc.jfmmpc\_196\_16

## **Cited in:**

Journal of Family Medicine and Primary Care. January 2018, 7(1):157

### **Incidental detection of hepatitis B and C viruses and their coinfection in a hospital-based general population in tertiary care hospital of Uttar Pradesh**

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**Abstract:** Substantial proportion of liver diseases worldwide is caused by hepatitis B virus (HBV) and hepatitis C virus (HCV) infections which manifest not only as an acute illness but also lead to chronic sequelae. Together HBV and HCV cause chronic infection in more than 500 million persons and about one million deaths annually. Most of the people with chronic infection are not aware of the infection thus enabling it to go unnoticed, and undiagnosed and act as a potential source of infection for the community at large. Therefore, we aimed to find the prevalence of HBV and HCV in Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh among individuals attending the tertiary care hospital. **Materials and Methods:** From February 2015 to January 2016, 3750 patients attending the outdoor patient departments or admitted to the indoor patient departments of teaching hospital and advised to undergo HBV and HCV for screening before any invasive/surgical procedure were included in the study. Screening was done by rapid card test followed by the confirmation of all samples by enzyme immunoassay. **Results:** Seroprevalence of HBV and HCV was found to be 3.9% and 1.76% respectively with higher seroprevalence among males and in married participants in both infections. Blood transfusion is statistically a significant risk factor for HCV infection ( $P < 0.05$ ). Coinfection with HBV/HCV was seen in 0.16% of the individuals visiting the hospital. **Conclusion:** Higher seroprevalence of HBV and HCV among the hospital-based population mandates screening of high-risk individuals. Awareness by health education of safe sexual practices and improved safety of blood and its products are among the most important preventive measures to control HBV and HCV infection.

**Reference:** B N Tandon, B. M. Gandhi, Yogendra Kumar Joshi. Etiological spectrum of viral hepatitis and prevalence of hepatitis A and B virus infection in North India Bulletin of the World Health Organization 62(1):67-73