

Prevalence of hepatitis a antibodies in western Indian population: changing pattern

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Prevalence of hepatitis a antibodies in western Indian population: changing pattern

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Abstract

This report pertains to a retrospective study conducted between 1983 and 1995 at three time points to evaluate the prevalence of hepatitis A virus (HAV) infection in the population of Bhor Taluk, situated in western India. Serum samples from children and adults were tested for anti-HAV antibodies using blocking ELISA test. There was a significant decrease in anti-HAV prevalence among children aged 5-10 years in 1995 (87.36%) as compared to that of 1983 (97.58%) and 1987 (96.48%). All individuals >11 years of age were seropositive for anti-HAV antibodies. Anti-HAV prevalence was similar in the users of well water, but was significantly reduced in individuals supplied with piped water in 1995 (88.61%) compared with that in 1983 (98.77%). A significant decrease in anti-HAV positivity was noted in children from Bhor Taluk as compared to children from Pune bled in 1992. These results underline the need for periodic surveillance of seroepidemiology of hepatitis A to determine the measures for prevention and control of the disease.

Reference

Tandon BN, Gandhi BM, Joshi YK. Etiological spectrum of viral hepatitis and prevalence of markers of hepatitis A and B virus infection in north India. Bull World Health Organ 1984; 62 : 67-73.