The changing epidemiological pattern of hepatitis A in an urban population of India: emergence of a trend similar to the European countries.

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The changing epidemiological pattern of hepatitis A in an urban population of India: emergence of a trend similar to the European countries.

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Abstract

The present study was undertaken to determine the seroprevalence of the antibody against hepatitis A virus (IgG anti-HAV) in an urban population sample from Delhi (India) and to assess any change in the epidemiological pattern of HAV infection in this part of the world. A total of 500 healthy subjects were enrolled and divided into groups on the basis of age, sex and per capita income and evaluated for the presence of IgG anti HAV antibodies using a commercially available kit. The mean age of all the subjects was 32.6 +/- 13.2 yr. and the male:female ratio was 1.5:1. The overall prevalence of IgG anti-HAV in all subjects was 71.2% (356/500). The prevalence in subjects >35 years (92.1% [186/202]) was significantly higher than that in subjects <35 years (92.1% [186/202]) was significantly higher than in subjects <35 years (57% [170/298]). No statistically significant difference was observed between male and female subjects (71.4% [217/304] vs. 70.9% [139/196]) or between subjects belonging to middle and low socioeconomic groups (68.9% [135/196] vs. 72.7% [221/304]). These findings when compared with the results that were obtained in 1982, showed a decreasing prevalence of IgG anti-HAV, most significantly in younger age groups (16-35 years). Thus, we may conclude that the seroepidemiology of hepatitis A virus infection in urban population of India seems to be changing with seroprevalence in the younger population approaching a figure similar to that of the more developed European countries.

Reference

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