

Viral hepatitis in India: Current status

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Viral hepatitis in India: Current status

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Abstract

Background: Viral hepatitis is a major cause of liver diseases and poses a serious public health problem throughout the world including India.

Objectives: Present study was planned to investigate the current status of viral hepatitis in patients with different liver and renal diseases.

Methods: A total number of 1043 patients, selected from an adult population with both the sexes, were included in this study plan. After clinical examination, their sera were analyzed for the presence of different hepatitis viral markers. The diagnosis of acute infection was based on the presence of IgM type antibody for hepatitis A, B, D & E infections. HCV-RNA or total anti-HCV was used for the diagnosis of HCV infection.

Results: We found the presence of hepatitis A virus (HAV) infection to be in 1-2% cases. Hepatitis B virus (HBV) and hepatitis C virus (HCV) infections were recorded to be the major cause of acute and chronic liver diseases. At the same time, hepatitis E virus (HEV) was responsible for causing acute liver diseases without showing its presence in chronic liver diseases. Hepatitis D virus (HDV) infection was not detected in this group of patients. Occurrence of co-infection was recorded merely with HBV-HCV without any other type of co-infection. A clinical follow-up of patients having co-infection or super-infection demonstrated a relatively more derangement of liver functions in the patients.

Conclusion: All types of hepatitis viral infections are prevalent in Indian patients' populations. The relative incidences of these infections vary slightly from place to place.

Keywords: chronic kidney diseases, coinfection, hepatitis viruses, liver diseases, viral markers

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