

Viral Hepatitis In Pregnancy

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Viral Hepatitis In Pregnancy

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Summary

Acute and chronic necro-inflammatory liver disease caused by hepatotropic virus infection continues to be a major worldwide health problem. Approximately 5% of the world's population has chronic hepatitis B virus (HBV) as many as 100% of the residents of nonindustrial nations and 70% of the residents of industrial nations have serologic evidence of prior exposure to hepatitis A virus (HAV),^{54, 70} and in the United States, end-stage liver disease caused by chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) is the most common indication for orthotopic liver transplantation (OLT).^{23, 54} Acute and chronic viral hepatitis often affects women of child-bearing age and their infants. In regions of the world where chronic HBV is prevalent, most new cases are the result of perinatal or neonatal infection. HAV infection usually occurs during childhood or in young adults, including those in their early reproductive years.^{25, 70} HCV infection often is acquired by teenagers and young adults as a result of drug use and also is common in persons with a history of sexual promiscuity.^{10, 19}

Thus, individuals providing health care to young women are likely to encounter patients with viral hepatitis and must be prepared to deal with issues related to acute and chronic infection, sexual and vertical transmission, and screening and

References

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