

# **An Epidemiological Investigation of an Outbreak of Viral Hepatitis E at Ahmednagar, Maharashtra, India.**

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## **An Epidemiological Investigation of an Outbreak of Viral Hepatitis E at Ahmednagar, Maharashtra, India.**

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## **Abstract**

Hepatitis E is an enterically transmitted viral disease, highly prevalent in India and mainly presents as a sporadic disease. This study investigated an outbreak of viral hepatitis at Ahmednagar Maharashtra, India. There was a rise in the number of viral hepatitis cases in a regimental training centre, Ahmednagar in May-Jun 2006 and an outbreak of viral hepatitis was suspected. The clinical case sheets and preliminary investigations carried out in the local military hospital (MH) were reviewed. A cross sectional descriptive epidemiological study was undertaken with survey of the suspected sewage and water pipelines. A total of 49 cases occurred from 12 May 2006 to 26 Jul 2006. There was clustering in time and space suggesting common source epidemic. All the 49 serum samples tested for IgM anti HEV antibodies were positive. Exploration of the water pipelines revealed sewage contamination due to leakage in the water pipeline which was passing through the sewage line. This water pipeline was laid illegally by the greedy canteen vendor to supplement water supply to his shop. The overall attack rate was 1.00%.The outbreak of viral hepatitis in the regimental training centre occurred due to sewage contamination of drinking water pipeline.

**Keywords:** Viral hepatitis E, Epidemiological investigation

## **Reference**

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