

Epidemics of Non-A, Non-B Hepatitis in Pakistan

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Epidemics of non-A, non-B hepatitis in Pakistan.

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Abstract

Three epidemics of acute viral hepatitis which occurred in different areas of Pakistan, namely Quetta, Mardan and Rawalpindi were studied. All the cases presented with jaundice, anorexia and nausea. The liver function tests showed raised serum bilirubin, alkaline phosphatase and ALT levels. In all the patients except one, the serology was consistent with non-A, non-B (NANB) hepatitis, which was most likely waterborne. This study shows that, as in some other parts of Asia and North Africa, epidemics of waterborne NANB hepatitis, clinically resembling hepatitis A, also occur in Pakistan. These epidemics are probably due to faecal contamination of the water supply systems in some areas of Pakistan.

References

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