

# **Hepatitis C virus infection is the major cause of severe liver disease in India**

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## **Hepatitis C virus infection is the major cause of severe liver disease in India**

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## **Abstract**

The diagnostic marker for HCV infection is now well established, though it is expected that the assay method, sensitivity and specificity will further improve in the near future. Reports on clinical and seroepidemiology studies of HCV are being published from different parts of the world, mostly from the developed countries 1-3. The global status of HCV hepatitis will emerge when these studies are extended to all the regions of the world, particularly to include the tropical and developing countries. Fulminant hepatitis failure (FHF) and Subacute hepatic failure (SAHF) are common manifestations of hepatitis in India. We report here HCV as the major cause of the severe form of liver disease in India, which includes fulminant hepatic failure (FHF), subacute hepatic failure (SAHF) and chronic active hepatitis (CAH). were tested using EIA-kits from Abbott (USA). HBsAg was detected by a modified micro-ELISA technique<sup>6,7</sup>; IgM anti-HAV and IgM anti-HBc were investigated in sera samples using HAVABM and CORZYME-M kits respectively. AntiHCV antibody was tested in sera samples using HCV-EIA kit from Ortho Diagnostic. The diagnosis of hepatitis A and B infections were confirmed by the presence of IgM anti-HAV and IgM anti-HBc respectively in sera samples. Sera negative for both these markers were diagnosed as due to NANB infections. Further sera positive for HBsAg but negative for IgM antibodies were labelled as HBV carriers associated with other hepatitis viral infections. The presence of anti-HCV antibody in HBsAg-positive but IgM anti-HBc negatives sera indicated superinfection of HCV in HBV carrier, where as the presence of both anti-HCV and IgM anti HBc together established coinfection of HCV with HBV infection.

## **References**

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