

Serological responses to hepatitis B virus infection in multi-transfused thalassemic children

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Serological responses to hepatitis B virus infection in multi-transfused thalassemic children.

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Abstract

One hundred children with beta-thalassemia major were studied prospectively. A onetime analysis of serum samples was carried out for a battery of hepatitis B viral markers viz., HBsAg, anti-HBs and anti-HBc. Seven mutually different serological patterns were observed. The commonest profile seen in 49 patients was a combined seropositivity for anti-HBc and anti-HBs indicating past HBV infection with persisting immunity. Definite evidence of active HBV infection (seropositivity for HBsAg and/or HBeAg) was demonstrated in 10 cases, six of these were HBsAg positive. Anti-HBc positivity alone was detected in 17 patients. The remaining 24 children were seropositive for anti-HBs alone suggesting a possible passive transmission of anti-HBs through blood transfusion.

Reference

Gandhi, B. M. & Tandon, B. N. A low cost micro-ELISA test for hepatitis B surface antigen. *Tropical Gastroenterology*, 5: 142-148 (1984).