

Occurrence Of Hepatitis B And Hepatitis C And Their Dual Infections: A Great Public Health Concern

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Occurrence Of Hepatitis B And Hepatitis C And Their Dual Infections: A Great Public Health Concern

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Abstract:

Introduction-Viral hepatitis is one of the major public health concern worldwide. Hepatitis B virus (HBV) and hepatitis C virus (HCV) are of great concern due to their association with cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma.

Aims & Objectives-i)To determine the frequency of Hepatitis B surface antigen and anti-HCV antibodies in patients coming to a tertiary care teaching hospital ii)To estimate the occurrence of co-infection with hepatitis B virus and hepatitis C virus iii) To analyse the risk factors associated with hepatitis B, hepatitis C and their co-infections.

Method-This prospective study included serum samples which were subjected to detection of HBs antigen and anti-HCV antibodies using rapid method by Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA).□immunochromatographic card tests, which were further con

Results- Out of total of 12,502 cases, the seropositivity of HBs antigen and anti-HCV antibodies was found to be 3.6% (452 /12,502) and 6.1% (758 /12,502) respectively. The frequency of co-infection (HBs antigen and anti-HCV antibodies) was found to be 0.8% (99 /12,502). Male to female ratio for hepatitis B, hepatitis C and co-infection was 2.1:1, 1.6:1and 2.3:1, respectively. The commonest risk factor associated with seropositivity of HBV was intravenous drug use, followed by blood / blood components transfusion. Hepatitis C infection was most commonly seen with blood / blood components transfusion, followed by intravenous drug use.

Conclusions: Counseling and health education regarding the safe injection practices, safe sexual practices , screening of blood / blood products and vaccination against HBV are the essential steps to combat viral hepatitis. A

Keywords : Anti-HCV antibodies, Co-infection, HBV, HCV, Hepatitis B surface antigen

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