

Multicentric Study: Prevalence of Hepatitis B and C at Risk Population

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Description

Viral hepatitis is extremely a serious public health problem affecting many billions of people globally. Limited information is available on this issue in the world. Hepatitis B and C virus infection are the major global health problems. All over the world, it has been estimated that about 257 million people are chronically infected with the HBV i.e. hepatitis B virus and 71 million of individuals are the hepatitis C virus HCV chronic carriers. The major modes of viral hepatitis transmission includes either the mucous membrane contact or the percutaneous exposure to the infected blood or to other body fluid i.e. the unsterile medical injections, needle stick injuries, blood transfusions, tattooing and body piercing, dental care, injecting drug use, and sexual intercourse). In more recent years, as increased the screening of blood products and the use of the sterile equipment for medical injection has been reduced the transmission via these routes, injection drug use has become proportionately more vital and important as a vector for the viral hepatitis transmission.

Discussion

There were studied a total of 3.025 samples coming from 2.259 high risk volunteers for infection with HBsAg or anti-VHC. 48,93% of the examined samples for HBsAg, were processed by Enzygnost®, technique, Germany. The rest were processed by immunoassay from KX Medical Diagnostic®, USA. All the samples for Hepatitis C, were done by rapid chromatographic immunoassay for antibodies anti-C, KX Medical Diagnostic®, USA. The 1.684 samples for hepatitis B, showed an average age

of 43 years \pm 25 with ranges between 18 and 75 years, representing decades from 30 to 59, the 56% of the population. The gender relationship was F:M 3:1 (72% feminine). 10 samples were positive: 60% feminine and 40% masculine. 2 of the were between 18 and 20 years. All the others were younger than 69 years. The 1.341 population for Hepatitis C, were age average 45 years \pm 25 with ranges between 18 and 75 years, representing the 52% in 3rd and 4th decade of life. Gender was F:M 3:1 (71% feminine). There were 13 positive tests, all older than 30 years and presence of 2 immigrants. The prevalence was 0,006 for Hepatitis B and 0,01 for Hepatitis C. It was obtained a far under result compared to the high risk world population prevalence for these infections. It is confirmed again that being a "high risk population" is not determinative of the infection.

Conclusion

This study provided much important information concerning hepatitis B and C prevalence and risk factors; it confirmed the intermediate endemicity for HCV infection and pointed to a decreasing trend of the HBV incidence, which might reclassify in low HBV endemicity area. This could be attributed primarily to the universal hepatitis B virus vaccination among the infants and healthcare workers over the past 13 years. HCV and HBV infections in the the present survey were mainly associated with the nosocomial exposures. Prevention and control of the HBV infection are needed to be reduced the HBV transmission between the adults. Therefore, the nosocomial risk prevention as well as the health education among the population are the main interventions that may help limiting the spread and transmission of these blood-borne infections.