

Hepatitis in Children

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115 patients (71 male and 44 female) with infectious hepatitis were hospitalized in Nagasaki University Hospital during 1974–1984. They were all the hospitalized patients in our pediatric department. The total patient was 8150 and that of hepatitis was 115, that is 1.4%.

On the classification of hepatitis, infectious mononucleosis patients were the most. Next was HB hepatitis. HA hepatitis were less than we had expected. Generally in Japan, childrens HA hepatitis patients are less usual than HB hepatitis patients. Unknown etiology group patients who are in the early period and are not immunologically diagnosed. Two fluminant hepatitis patients died. Transient liver disfunction group was probably the EB virus infection, because they were recovered soon. The neonatal hepatitis patients were examined by viral study but could not be diagnosed what they were. In Europe and America it is said that prognosis is not good, but in our cases it was very good and all were recovered completely as well as other cases in all over Japan.

We used dialysable leukocyte extract (DLE) to chronic HB hepatitis. In normal course of HB hepatitis, most of immunologists consider as following; HB virus infected hepatic cells have normal function but their surface markers are changed immunologically. Then killer cells attack the infected cells and break them. So HB virus are exposed to serum, and made inactivated by antibody. On the other hand cellular immunity may be implicated in the pathogenesis of chronic hepatitis and there may be depression of delayed cutaneous hypersensitivity and T cell function. So we used DLE in order to expect that it would work efficiently to normalize the cellular immunity. We used DLE for 7 patients with HB hepatitis (chronic type). After using DLE the liver functions were normalized in 6 patients. Seroconversion was recognized in 3 cases. HBs Ag disappeared in 3 cases. The period until seroconversion occurred was rather long, between 2 and 4 years. We conclude DLE seems to be effective.
