

Intrafamilial Transmission of Hepatitis C Virus Infection in Iran (Markazi Province)

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Objectives: The role of Intrafamilial Hcv transmission is still controversial, the aim of the present study is to determine intrafamilial transmission (Sexual and non sexual contacts) of Hcv in Iran.

Methods: In this historical cohort study, we enrolled 270 first degree relatives of hepatitis c patients as the exposed group and 270 first degree relative of normal subjects (with negative Hcv) compared as the unexposed group. Positive Hcv and negative Hcv subjects were selected of blood donors referred to the Regional Blood transfusion organization in Arak from August 2001 to August 2007. First degree relatives were who lived with the index case at least for one year in the same house. Subjects were interviewed using a standard questionnaire acquiring demographic and risk factor information. Then serum samples were obtained from each subject. Antibodies to Hcv were detected employing by commercially available second - generation enzyme immunoassay. Positive serum specimens were retested using a second generation recombinant immunoblot assay. Data analysis was carried out with spss for intra-hous hold clustering. We used fisher exact test in order to detect association between the exposure and out come of the study

Results: The mean age of exposed group was 27.11 ± 19.84 years and 38.1% were male. The mean age of unexposed group was 29.38 ± 16.70 years and 51.9% were male. There was not any significant difference about sex, age, familial relation and condom use between exposed and unexposed subjects. sexual partner subjects formed 24.8% of first degree relatives in the case - group. In exposed group, there is no Hcv positive but in unexposed group we had 2 cases of Hcv positive who were intravenous drug abuser. The prevalence of positive Hcv antibody among household contacts of two groups was not significantly different. (P value = 0.25)

Conclusion: The results of this study demonstrate that intrafamilial transmission of Hcv is not the significant transmission route and sexual transmission does not seem to play a role in the intrafamilial spread of Hcv infection.

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Epidemiological Screening of Hepatitis E Virus in Bile Specimens from Livestock in Northwest China

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Hepatitis E virus (HEV) is an important causative agent of epidemics and sporadic cases of acute hepatitis in many regions. Some strains of HEV have been detected in swine, deer, and wild boar, and specific antibodies against HEV have been detected in livestock. However, there have been no

this study, 1295 bile specimens were collected from slaughter houses located in Xi'an (Shaanxi province), Kashi city (Xijiang autonomous region), and Datong (Shanxi province). Reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) and partial nucleotide sequencing were performed to detect the HEV RNA. Eleven HEV positive samples were from swine. Both phylogenetic analysis and Genetic analysis based on the alignment of an amplified 150-nt ORF2 sequence indicated that the HEV strains belonged to genotype IV. We postulate that swine are the main reservoir of HEV.

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Immunity to Hepatitis B Vaccine in Children Less Than 5 Years Vaccinated Using Hepatitis B Vaccine Attending RCH Clinics Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania

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Background: In 1991, the World Health Organization (WHO) called for all children to receive the hepatitis B vaccine. Since then 116 countries have added this vaccine to their routine immunization programmes and the remaining countries are either planning its introduction or studying its feasibility. In Tanzania, Hepatitis B vaccination has been introduced into immunization programme since 2002. It is given in combination with DPT (diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus). It is given at 4th, 8th and 12th week of life. The Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) in Tanzania was launched in 1975. The goal is to reduce infant and childhood morbidity and mortality due to vaccine preventable diseases, one of them being hepatitis B infection.

Objective: To determine Immunity to Hepatitis B vaccine in children aged 2–59 months, vaccinated using hepatitis b vaccine attending RCH clinics in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Methodology: A cross-sectional hospital based study was done.

Setting: MCH clinics at 3 district hospitals in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.

Study population: Children less than five years who has received hepatitis B vaccine.

Results: 296 children aged 2 m to 59 months were studied, 205 children had immunity to hepatitis B vaccine. —70% (Antibodies level of $10 \mu/L$ or above were considered as protective). Multivariate analysis revealed number of DPT HB doses, nutritional status and time interval since last vaccination had significant association with mounting adequate immune response.

Conclusion and Recommendation: It was concluded that number of DPT HB doses, nutritional status and time interval since last vaccination have influence in these children to mount adequate immune response. We recommended a booster dose of Heb vaccine at 2nd decade so as to prevent these children from getting infection, hence complications such as liver cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma.

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