doi:10.1016/j.ijid.2008.05.1091

67.001
A Comparison Research of Hepatitis B Virus Large Surface Protein with HBV DNA Detecting
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Background: The hepatitis B virus (HBV) is an enveloped DNA virus with an icosahedral capsid replicating via reverse transcription. The crystalline structure of the capsid is known. The viral envelope contains three different coterminous proteins (S, M, and L proteins) spanning the membrane several times. Hepatitis B virus large surface protein ‘LHBs’ has the unusual property of accumulating in a particulate form within a preGolgi compartment, leading to marked proliferation of intracellular membranes.

Objective: The aim of this study was to investigate the clinical value of LHBs used for diagnosis of the clinical hepatitis B patient and relativity with replication of hepatitis B virus.

Methods: A total of 600 HBsAg positive patients in The Fourth people’s hospital of Shenzhen between April-December 2006 were included to the study. The patients were classified into two groups according to their serological patterns (Group 1: HBsAg positive 300 cases; Group 2: HBsAg negative 300 cases). The age and gender distributions of the groups were similar. HBV serological markers and LHBs have been detected by Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA), and viral load (HBV-DNA) were investigated by real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR).

Results: No significant difference of positive rate was observed between HBV DNA 76.17% (457/600) and LHBs 77.33% (464/600) (X^2 = 0.696, P > 0.05). In 600 HBsAg-positive serum samples; Positive rate of HBV DNA and LHBs were 95.0 (285/300) and 96.0 (288/300) in HBeAg negative cases and were 77.33% (172/300) and 58.67% (176/300) in HBeAg negative samples(X^2 = 0.725, P > 0.05; X^2 = 0.253, P > 0.05); Serum LHBs levels were correlated with the serum HBV DNA copies (r = 0.948).

Conclusion: The results demonstrated that there is a perfect correlation between the copies of HBV-DNA and the levels of LHBs, and LHBs expression can reflect the replication of HBV.

doi:10.1016/j.ijid.2008.05.1092

67.002
Trial of Lamivudine in Inactive HBsAg Carriers with Persistent Hepatitis B Core IgM Antibody
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Objective: The persistence of Anti-HBc IgM among inactive HBsAg carriers may be with hidden dangers and forecasts the existence of liver damage. A trial of lamivudine in such carriers was carried out for the first time in this study.

Patients and Methods: A total of 62 Inactive HBsAg carriers (age range: 25—45 years) with persistence of anti-HBc IgM were randomized to receive either 100 mg lamivudine (32/62) or placebo (30/60) daily for months. The studied carriers were regular attendees of the Virology Center in Mosul, North Iraq for follow-up. Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay techniques were performed to detect the different markers of HBV infection.

Results: Among the lamivudine group, anti-HBc IgM seroclearance rate was 81.3% and HBsAg seroconversion rate was 9.4% compared to 6.3% and 3.3% among placebo group. Number of adverse clinical events were observed, but were of mild nature and tolerable by the participants who completed the study.

Conclusions: The trial of lamivudine in this group of inactive HBsAg carrier state cases proved to be safe and efficacious.

doi:10.1016/j.ijid.2008.05.1093

67.003
Therapy of Chronic Hepatitis C in Intravenous Drug Users - Efficiency and Problems
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Background: HCV infection is very common in intravenous drug users (IDUs) and it has more often progression in chronic hepatitis. Inspite of that, just small percent of these patients with chronic hepatitis C (CHC) is treated with antiviral therapy. Interruption of therapy was common in IDUs due to low compliance and adverse reactions, usually psychiatric.

Methods: This is a 5-year retrospective analysis of 37 IDUs with CHC who were treated in Institute for Infectious and Tropical Diseases, Clinical Center of Serbia in Belgrade. HCV RNA and HCV genotype (G) were determined by PCR. Liver biopsy was performed in 34 (91.8%) patients. All 37 patients were treated with peglated interferon alpha 2a + Ribavirin according to standard protocols.

Results: There were 37 IDUs with CHC in the age from 17—54 years. They abused heroin iv for 1—21 years. HCV infection was diagnosed 1—18 years before treatment. All patients were HBsAg and anti-HIV negative. 18 patients (48.64%) also consumed alcohol. AST level ranged from 35—248 IU/L. Liver biopsy showed cirrhosis in 5 (14.7%) patients and fibrosis in 29 (85.3%) patients. Steatosis was confirmed in 9 (24.3%) patients. Viral load ranged from...