Prevalence of Viral Markers for Hepatitis B and C in Healthy Volunteer Blood Donors in Fasa Region, South Iran

M.J. Yavari Barhaghtalab, S. Saboori, M. Damiri, M. Ekrah

1 Fasa University of Medical Sciences, School of Medicine, Fasa, Iran (Islamic Republic of)
2 Bushehr University of Medical Sciences, School of Medicine, Bushehr, Iran (Islamic Republic of)
3 Fasa University of Medical Sciences, Department of Infectious Disease & tropical Medicine, Shariati Hospital, Fasa, Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Background: There are only a few published reports regarding the prevalence of hepatitis B virus, hepatitis C virus in Iranian blood donors. We determined the prevalence rate of hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) and anti-hepatitis C virus antibodies (anti-HCV) among 25491 healthy voluntary blood donors in Blood Transfusion Center of Fasa, Fars Province, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Material and method: Written records of the Blood Transfusion Center were reviewed, including charts of all risk free potential altruistic donors from January 2002 to June 2007 who had determined to have hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) or hepatitis C antibodies (anti-HCV).

Results: Of the 25491 healthy donors, 52.8% were male and 47.2% female. The majority of the samples were young people. Of the 25491 blood donations screened, 1.3% (331) had HBsAg detected with 0.9% (229) confirmed by confirmatory test (Western blot). Anti-HCV was positive in 0.7% (178) with 0.55% (140) confirmed. Hepatitis B and C co-infection was common. The individuals with positive HCV antibodies were more likely to have positive HBsAg. The annual prevalence of HBsAg gradually decreased from 2.5% in 2002 to 0.6% in 2007. The seroprevalence of HCV antibody gradually decreased from 1.05% in 2002, to 0.3% in 2007.

Discussion and conclusion: We compared our results with those of other studies and conclude that the prevalence rate of HBsAg in our area has decreased in the last 3 decades; from being an area of high prevalence, it is now one with moderate-to-low prevalence. Since there are few reports on the seroepidemiology of hepatitis C in the Islamic Republic of Iran in recent decades, we could not assess the changes in prevalence of hepatitis C.

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Profile of Animal Bite Patients Attending Anti-Rabies Centers in Delhi

K. Mendhekar

National Institute of Communicable Disease (NICD), Delhi, India

Keywords: Species of animal bite; Practices; Health care facilities

Background: Rabies continues to be major Public health problem in India. An estimated 20,000 death and about 17 million animal bites occurs annually. This project was taken to study the profile of animal bite cases attending anti-rabies centers. These results will help in formulating strategy and control of rabies in Delhi.

Method: A cross-sectional study was conducted in the antirabies center of Hindu Rao Hospital and Infectious Diseases Hospital in Delhi from cases attending to receive post exposure immunization during August 2007 to November 2007. A total 600 cases were interviewed of all age groups and both sexes. Classification of animal bite for post exposure prophylaxis was as per WHO recommendation. Data was analyzed by using Epi-info software/spread sheet.

Results: Of 600 cases, 88.5% dog bite followed by 8.33% monkey bite, cat bite 2% & rat bite 0.83%. 74.16% were male. Male to female ratio was 3:1.40% children were less than 15 years age groups. Students were 40.5% followed by labour 30.33%. Most of cases 48% occur in evening. Common site of bite was on lower limb 70%, bite on face was most common in children. Cat III exposure was 97.33%. Only 28% cases completed advised regime. 75% dog alive & only 2% dead within ten days after bite to human being. 43% cases reported within 24 hours after bite.

Conclusion: The study shows principle biting animal was dog followed by monkey, cat & rat. Bite was most common in children because of fondness of animal. Majority had faith in traditional method of treatment. In spite of facilities available only few cases turn up in ARC to receive full course of vaccine. Community needs health education regarding the first aid, the importance of completing the vaccine course advised & taking treatment immediately.

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of HBs Ab and HBe Ab were observed in 6—9 years old and ≥50 years old age groups respectively. There was no HBs Ag or HBe Ab in vaccinated age group (6—9 years old). According to education status, the most frequent of HBe Ab positive was in non educated group (P < 0.001).

Conclusion: Isfahan province seems to have a low prevalence of HBV infection. However, as low HBe Ab and HBs Ab prevalences were seen in non-vaccinated at-risk age groups, improving the coverage of vaccination seems necessary.

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Outbreak of Hepatitis A in Korean Military Personnel

C.S. Lee*, J.H. Lee, K.S. Kwon

Chonbuk National University Medical School, Jeonju, Republic of Korea

Objectives: We experienced hepatitis A outbreaks among Korean military personnel. We investigated the characteristics of hepatitis A outbreaks and serologic examination to determine the necessity for selective HAV vaccination.

Methods: Each case of hepatitis A in this outbreak was defined as a person who had symptoms compatible with acute viral hepatitis A and had positive HAV IgM between May 2 to August 14, 2007 in Inje district, Gangwon, Korea. We tested HAV IgM and IgG antibody to consenting 204 persons among entire exposure men for HAV susceptible person at July 23.

Results: We tested 70 cases with symptoms for HAV IgM, and 67 cases showed positive results. They were consisted of 4 sergeants, 1 officer and 62 privates. A positive result for HAV IgG among asymptomatic military personnel was in 11.8%. The most frequently reported symptoms included nausea (74.6%), anorexia (74.6%), headache (71.6%), jaundice (67.2%), abdominal pain (65.7%), fever (61.2%), chill (55.2%), vomiting (44.8%), diarrhea (41.8%), flu-like symptom (25.4%), myalgia (22.4%) and arthralgia (9.0%). But, 2 cases had no symptoms. The result of HAV IgG for asymptomatic military personnel was 11.8% (24 among 204 persons). This epidemic occurred after a heavy rainfall in the military compound area where drinking water was supplied by the stream water. After the outbreaks, supply of drinking water was switched to public water system. Total of 178 military personnel who had no HAV IgG were vaccinated on July 26, 2007.

Conclusion: The seropositive rate of HAV IgG in Korean military personnel was only 11.8% in this study. The HAV virus infection cases are dramatic increasing and already several outbreaks was reported in recent years in Korea. We think that this is the time for HAV vaccination to high risk group, especially young Korean military personnel.

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