

Prevalence of Hepatitis B Virus and Hepatitis C Virus in HIV Patients

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Introduction

About one third of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infected patients are co-infected with either Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) or Hepatitis C Virus (HCV), which share the route of transmission with HIV. In India, HIV is predominantly acquired through heterosexual route. The survival rate of HIV infected patients has been markedly improved with Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy (HAART). In co-infection, the presence of one virus impacts the natural history of other virus. HIV accelerates the natural course of HBV and HCV infection and facilitates faster progression of liver disease to cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma. Co-infection with hepatitis viruses may also complicate the delivery of Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) by increasing the risk of drug related hepatotoxicity leading to decrease survival and increased mortality in HIV infected patients. The prevalence of HIV with hepatitis virus varies widely. This study was planned to evaluate the prevalence of HBV and HCV in HIV patients [1].

Methodology

A total of 2000 HIV patients enrolled in the ART centre PGIMS, Rohtak were retrospectively analyzed for the presence of HBs Ag and anti-HCV markers in their serum by Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) as per NACO guidelines during a 3 months period (August 2019 to October 2019).

Results

During the study period a total of 2000 HIV positive patients on ART therapy were studied.

- Out of 2000 HIV infected patients 1350 (67.5%) were males and 650 (32.5%) were females.
- Of the 2000 HIV infected patients 55 were HBV infected and 69 were HCV infected and 4 were infected with both.
- Co-infection with both HBV and HCV was higher among males (3/4) as compared to females (1/4).

Conclusion

- The higher prevalence of HCV in HIV patients was attributed to lack of vaccine for HCV.
- These co-infections have emerged as one of the leading cause of non AIDS related deaths in HIV patients.
- The present study underlines the necessity of uniform guidelines in which all the HIV infected patients should be screened for HBV and HCV to help in their management.
- Many times the infection with HBV and HCV goes unnoticed so proper education should be given to HIV infected patients about these viruses.

References

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