

CHANGING TRENDS IN THE ETIOLOGICAL PATTERN OF ACUTE VIRAL HEPATITIS

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It has studied the changing trends in the weight of acute viral hepatitis during ten years interval and the opportunity of implementation of specific prophylactic measures in connection with the changes noticed. The blood samples of two consecutive series of acute hepatitis patients collected in 1981 (173 sera) and 1990 (186 sera) were tested for hepatitis A, B, D and C serological markers with RIA and ELISA assay. There have been analysed the weight of each type of acute hepatitis, as well as the level of multiple hepatitis infections. No change in the weight of acute hepatitis B, D and C. The decrease of the level of acute hepatitis A ($p=0.04, \chi^2$) with increasing receptivity in persons over 20 years old ($RR=1,26$). The cumulative rate attack for acute viral hepatitis A, B and C varied between 0,67 and 0,97 in 1981 and between 0,59 and 1,22 in 1990, respectively. Slight increase in the level of multiple hepatitis infection (from 26,5% to 30,6%). The high and constant level of local hepatitis endemy, especially the level of endemy induced by hepatitis with parenteral transmission demands a complex preventive program, insisting on vaccination against HBV infection. The active immunization should have a substantial impact on HBV and HDV infections in our area.