

THE ANALYSIS OF THE FOLLOW UP ACTIVITY OF TYPE B VIRAL HEPATITIS DURING A 13 YEARS INTERVAL

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In 1981 a department concerned with the follow up of the patients with viral hepatitis was established at the Clinical Hospital No.4 "Dr. V.Babes" Timișoara. During a 13 years period (1.01.1982-31.12.1994) 2409 cases of type B viral hepatitis were followed, with respect to the clinical outcome and the evolution of the biochemical and immunological parameters. Our study represents an analysis of 1975 patients hospitalized between 1982 and 1991. Presently, according to the clinical and biochemical criteria, all the above mentioned patients are in a steady state i.e. being either cured or having developed chronic liver disease. The results obtained in the above mentioned group were compared with those from a control group constituted of 829 patients with type B viral hepatitis hospitalized during the period 1.01.1979-31.12.1981, when no sistematic follow up was available. We analysed the clinical and biochemical data, and the outcome of the patients (cure or evolution to chronic liver disease) in the two groups of patients. The patients were divided in age groups, as follows - 0 to 2 years; 2 to 14 years; and over 14 years old. We observed a decrease in the incidence of chronic hepatitis B virus infection in patients that were regullary followed up, with respect to those that were not. This decrease was more marked in the age group over 14 years old (2,05% chronic infections in those followed up versus 4,66% in those not followed up) and less clear in children under 14 years (1,16% versus 1,34%).