

THE INCIDENCE OF ANTI-HCV AB IN PATIENTS WITH LIVER DISEASES IN A GASTROENTEROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

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Considering the high incidence of the infection with hepatitis C virus, the presence of anti-HCV Ab in patients suffering from liver diseases in a

gastroenterological department has been assessed. A group of various chronic liver diseases has been studied on several occasions for anti-HCV Ab. ELISA I (MONOLISA kits - Sanofi Diagnostics Pasteur), ELISA II (ABBOT PRTHO Diagnostics kits) and ELISA III (Murex Diagnostics Ltd. Dartford) techniques, have been used. The batch consisted of 267 patients, 131 males and 136 females, with a mean age of 49 years (ranging from 16 to 82) out of which 67 patients with chronic active hepatitis (CAH), 113 patients with liver cirrhosis (LC), 10 with hepatocarcinoma (HCC), as well as 4 asymptomatic carriers of hepatitis B virus (ASC) and 5 with no liver diseases (NLD). The diagnosis of CPH, CAH and LC was asserted considering bio-functional and morphopathological criteria (laparoscopy/laparotomy and histology), and as concerns hepatocarcinoma - ultrasonography, computer tomography and liver biopsy were also performed.

From table it comes out the high incidence of anti-HCV Ab in the studied group - 36%.

	n	anti-HCV+		anti-HCV-	
		n	%	n	%
CPH	67	13	19	54	81
CAH	68	28	41	40	59
LC	113	51	45	62	55
HCC	10	4	40	6	60
ASC	4	-	0	4	100
NHD	5	-	0	5	100
TOTAL	267	96	36	171	64

The highest incidence is found in CAH (41%) and LC (45%), as well as in HCC (but the latest is not statistically significant). The history of these patients reveals the implication of blood transfusion in hepatitis C virus infections. We mention that in some patients the presence of anti-HCV Ab has been verified by the same techniques, while in others ELISA III (Murex) and RIBA I techniques have been used. HBV markers starched in these patients were found in the same proportions: 22% in anti-HCV Ab positive patients, 24% in patients without anti-HCV Ab. The incidence of anti-HCV Ab in patients suffering from liver diseases is important, proving the high incidence of the infection with hepatitis C virus and - in absence of other etiological factors - its decisive contribution as regards the chronic evolution/worsening of the liver alterations.