

# POST-TRANSFUSION HEPATITIS AND PREVALENCE OF TYPE C ACUTE VIRAL HEPATITIS

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During 1.11.1993 - 1.04.1995, in our clinic were admitted 1560 adult patients with acute viral hepatitis. In this group, 56 (3,59%) were posttransfusion hepatitis, occurred after blood and blood products transfusion. We hadn't any information about a hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection prior to transfusion at no one of these patients. HBsAg was found in 11 (19,4%) patients who received a blood transfusion. The inconstant acquisition of the ELISA tests for the detection of the anti-hepatitis C virus (HCV) antibodies permitted to establish the diagnosis of HCV infection in 27 (48,21%) cases. At the same time, the detection of anti-HCV antibodies in 4 patients without blood transfusion, raised the question of other routes of transmission and led to the conclusion that there are necessary more sensitive tests (PCR, immunoblot) for the correct appreciation of the HCV hepatitis. Following up 6 months after the acute phase of the hepatitis, only 12 patients (21,4%) were present for the periodic control. We detected still 4 patients sero positive for anti-HCV antibodies, appeared during a period between 10 to 25 weeks after the onset of the clinical manifestations. We considered that the type C hepatitis must be followed over 1 year, in order to appreciate the evolution to chronic liver disease.