ACUTE POST-TRANSFUSIONAL HEPATITIS - MAJOR ROLE OF HEPATITIS C VIRUS

Luminița *Iancu**, Tatiana *Turcu**, Silvia *Porumb**, St.*Dimitriu*****, V.*Luca*****, M.*Duca**

*Department of Microbiology
**Clinic of Infectious Diseases,
University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Iasi

The prevalence of hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection, evaluated by determination of anti-HCV antibodies (Ab) in blood donors is for Moldavia (North-East of Romania) 4,54% - this is 7-10 fold higher than in Western Europe, where the screening has been introduced since 1990. Our series consists of 51 patients, admitted in Infectious Diseases Unit "Sf. Paraschiva" Iasi in 10.1992-04.1993 period, with acute post-transfusional hepatitis (PTH) diagnosis. 41 (80,3%) were tested by ELISA for presence of specific markers for 3 hepatitis viruses: HCV, HBV and HAV. Sex distribution was similar, and age average was 50,8 years old. 38 of 41 patients (92,7%) presented anti-HCV Ab. For one patient (2,4%), we have detected antiHBc/IgM - with non-detectable HBsAg; 2 cases (4,9%) were with unspecified etiology. positive ratio anti-HCV Ab in PTH was similar with data reported in literature - the explanation of this high ratio is the absence of testing for anti-HCV Ab in the Regional Blood Transfuzion Units. The high prevalence of acute PTH, anti-HCV positive, and the high prevalence of HCV infection in general population, is the main reason for the introduction of the screening of HCV in Regional Blood Transfusion Units in Romania. That will decrease the circulation of this virus in population, well-known for the high ratio of chronic infection.