

THE INCIDENCE OF ANTI-HCV ANTIBODIES IN A GROUP OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES PATIENTS

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HCV infection seems to be responsible for a limited percentage of acute non-A non-B hepatitis. The virus was also identified in some cases of chronic anti-HCV positive hepatitis and in healthy carriers blood donors. The transmission of the virus occurs mainly after a transfusion with HCV infected blood in recipients, or by intravenous way (unsterile syringes) in drug users, but rarely by the vertical way (mother to child). Some studies showed 7% sexually transmitted C hepatitis in patients 14-44 years old, 9% anti-HCV positive prostitutes and 16% anti-HCV positive common clients of these. Anti-HCV antibodies (4,7%) were found also in heterosexual patients with sexually transmitted diseases STDs, such as gonorrhea, syphilis, condiloma. The aim of the work was to establish the incidence of anti-HCV in a group of patients with STDs, to demonstrate the importance of this HCV spreading way. Sera of 575 patients with STDs were collected among 1993-1995 (511 with syphilis and some partners, 64 with genital herpes, venereal vegetation and condiloma), and were tested for anti-HCV with an ELISA kit (Sanofi Diagnostics Pasteur, 2nd generation). Repeatedly reactive samples were retested by another ELISA (3rd generation) kit and confirmed as positive by Immuno Blot anti-HCV DECISCAN. 35 samples were positive for anti-HCV, that is 6% in the total of 575 patients with STDs. The positive subjects denied any blood transfusion and parenteral therapy. We consider that our preliminary results could support the sexually way of HCV infection acquiring, the percentage being comparable with other related studies.