

THE PREVALENCE OF HBsAg AND ANTI-HCV ANTIBODIES IN HIV INFECTED PATIENTS

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The association of HBV and HIV infection occurs with a high percentage (57% in 1989, in a study of HIV positive children). HCV infection is less documented: on one hand, because of the lack of specific methods for serologic diagnosis and poor understanding of the ways of acquiring; on the other hand, a "seroreversion" phenomenon was described since 1993 in HIV infected persons. In this study we have tested 184 patients (119 children and 65 adults) for anti-HCV and the degree of HBV/HCV coinfection. Serum samples were collected among 1991-1994 and tested for HBsAg and anti-HCV by ELISA kits (Sanofi, Dgs. Pasteur). Anti-HCV positive samples were confirmed by immuno-blot (Deciscan, Sanofi Dgs. Pasteur). Our results showed 6,3% anti-HCV positive patients, 4,2% in children and 20% in adults. Both markers were present in 1,92% among the total number. In the same period, anti-HCV positive children were tested periodically for transaminases levels and we found 5-10 fold increased values (in a mean of two episodes per year). To conclude, our study that the 4,2% anti-HCV incidence in children is comparable to anti-HCV prevalence in healthy blood donors (before introducing the blood control for HCV). In adults there is a significantly higher anti-HCV prevalence (20%), perhaps due to the sexual way of HCV spread. Both HBV and HCV superposed in 1,92% of cases. In addition, HCV infection could be confirmed by both anti-HCV and transaminases determination during an appropriate time (1 year).