

***Introduction
&
Aim of Work***

INTRODUCTION

Chronic renal failure patients undergoing regular haemodialysis are exposed to various risk factors during dialysis.

Hepatitis C virus infection is one of the most serious viral infections transmitted parenterally and causes high morbidity and mortality.

Acute and chronic hepatitis occurring among patients may arise from multiple causes. The commonest forms of dialysis associated hepatitis include hepatitis B, non-A non B-hepatitis with cytomegalovirus hepatitis and drug induced hepatitis (Vyas et al., 1984).

Yamaguchi et al. (1990) have found that the prevalence of HCV infection increased with the duration of haemodialysis and there was a high frequency of HCV seropositivity (18.3%) even in dialysis patients without blood transfusion.

Hepatitis is generally defined as elevation of the serum transaminase to at least two times the upper limit of normal, persisting for 7 days, there may or may not be elevations in bilirubin and alkaline phosphatase (Sherlock, 1989).

In this study chronic renal failure patients exposed to regular haemodialysis are tested to contract hepatitis C virus during dialysis.

Aim of the work:

This work aims to detect the prevalence of hepatitis C virus infection in chronic renal failure patients in order to take measures against its transmission during dialysis.