
An epidemiological study of hepatitis b and c among adults attending primary health care centers in benha city

Eman Abd El Fattah Al Bitar

Summary Viral hepatitis is still an important public health problem throughout the world. Hepatitis Band C infection are the most important types particularly as they may progress to chronic liver disease, cirrhosis and primary liver cancer. The present work aims to study epidemiological aspects of hepatitis Band C in adults to define the factors that contribute to the prevalence of this problem in our community. The subjects of this study were 300 apparently healthy adults (152 females and 148 males) collected from attendants of primary health care centers in Benha city in the period from July, 1994 to August, 1995. Their ages ranged from 18-65 years (mean 33.8 ± 10.8). An interview questionnaire was designed for collection of personal, social and medical characteristics of the selected group. A blood sample was obtained from every individual for serological diagnosis using ELISA technique (2nd generation). This work revealed the following results:- The prevalence of HBs Ag, HBs Ab and HCV Ab among the studied group were 5.7%, 28.7% and 27% respectively, with a significant difference between males and females regarding the prevalence of HCV Ab (35.8%, 18.4% respectively) (P