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Wilson's disease: Clinical presentations among patients attending gastroenterology clinic, Baghdad Teaching Hospital

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Wilson's disease (WD) is an inherited disorder of copper metabolism that is characterized by tremendous variation in the clinical presentation. A descriptive cross sectional study with analytic elements was conducted during 2011, from the 1st of February till the 10th of June. The sampling method was a convenient non-random one, carried out through consecutive pooling of registered WD patients. A questionnaire-form paper had been developed for the process of data collection. The study had enrolled 29 patients with a male to female ratio of (1.07:1); their mean age was 27.12±12.18 years. 82.8% of them lived in urban area. 48.3% were singles. Only 20.7% of patients had a positive family history of WD. 69% of patients had consanguineous parents. The main initial clinical presentations were; hepato-neurologic (31%), pure hepatic (27.6%), neuro-psychiatric (13.8%) and other presentations (27.6%). Hepatic manifestations were seen in 82.8% of patients; jaundice was the most frequent (89.7%). Ophthalmologic manifestations in 55.1% of patients show Kayser-Fleischer rings (51.7%), diplopia (6.9%) and cataracts (3.4%). Neurologic manifestations existed in 44.8% of patients; tremors were the most frequent (41.4%). Psychiatric manifestations existed in 31% of patients; depression was the commonest (27.6%). Joints manifestations existed in 20.7% of patients. The diagnosis delay was 11.26±8.2 months. In conclusion, the higher percentage of patients was of hepato-neurologic and pure hepatic presentations. Patients with hepato-neurologic type are diagnosed in older age, while those with neuro-psychiatric type are diagnosed in younger age and with longer diagnosis delay.

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Host factors associated with spontaneous hepatitis C virus clearance

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Background: Spontaneous clearance occurs in a varying proportion of hepatitis C virus (HCV) infected individuals. The factors associated with it are debatable. Recognizing these factors may lead to better understanding of HCV natural history and eventually improve prediction and management models.

Aim: This study was performed to determine the host factors associated with spontaneous HCV clearance.

Methods: Among 847 HCV antibody positive individuals who denied receiving HCV antiviral treatment, 306 spontaneously cleared the virus (36%). Persistent infection and clearance groups were compared regarding host, behavioral and possible acquisition factors.

Results: Neither gender nor age showed significant association but males ≥45 years had significantly higher clearance rate (40.2%) compared to males <45 years (28.8%), OR=1.66; 1.07-2.57 CI. History of schistosomiasis and receiving parenteral treatment for schistosomiasis had odds ratio (1.92; 1.28-2.88 CI and 1.53; 1.13-2.08) respectively. History of incarceration was associated with low clearance rate (10.5%, OR=0.20; 0.05-0.88 CI). Frequent dentist visits was significantly associated with higher HCV clearance rate (39.9% vs. 30.1%, OR=1.55; 1.15-2.08).

Conclusion: Higher probability of HCV clearance is associated with schistosomiasis co-infection, ≥45 years old in males and frequent dentist visits, while low clearance rate was associated with history of incarceration. These results suggest that the mode of transmission may affect the clearance probability.

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