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Haryana: A new hub of hepatitis C in India

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Introduction: Hepatitis C virus (HCV) is a major cause of liver disease worldwide and a potential cause of substantial morbidity and mortality in the future. Professional blood donation continues to flourish despite a law condoning this. Another malaise in our health system is the reuse of improperly sterilized needles. Both these factors are potential sources for the spread of hepatitis C in India.

Aims & Objectives: The aim was to study Epidemiological profile in patients infected with Hepatitis C virus and to assess the various risk factors, genotypes, viral load and geographic foci of the disease, if any.

Results: Majority of the subjects (65%) were male. 81% of the subjects came from rural residential areas. 84% of the subjects were married. The age distribution curve showed a sharp peak between the age group of 20 to 35 years (38%). More than one third (37.37%) of the patients were from Kaithal alone. Kaithal and Fatehabad together made up 60% of the subjects. The districts bordering Punjab were having more prevalence in comparison to other parts. History of previous surgery and tattooing appeared as major risk factors. 60% of the patients were asymptomatic. Most of them were found to have HCV infection at screening camps followed by screening during pre-anesthetic checkups and blood donation. Genotype-3 was the most common (58%) followed by genotype-4 (22%) and Genotype-1 (17.30%). Genotype-5 and 6 was seen only in 0.2% and 0.1% respectively. There was no case of genotype-2.

Biography

Parveen Malhotra is the Professor and Head of the Department of Gastroenterology at PGIMS, India. He has completed his DNB Gastroenterology under renowned Hepatologist Dr. Dharmesh Kapoor from Global Hospital, Hyderabad. He has then become Head and established Department of Gastroenterology at PGIMS, Rohtak in August, 2010. He has fifty publications to his credit and he is a regular presenter at various national and international conferences. He is also a Post Graduate Teacher and Member of both postgraduate and undergraduate board of studies as well as Academic Council at University of Health Sciences, India. He was awarded first prize (N. L. Patney Award) in paper presentation on Hepatitis C Epidemic in Haryana at IAMCON-2013 at Kota.

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