

Abstract

Prevalence of serological markers of Hepatitis B infection in patients with inflammatory bowel disease.

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Aim: To study the prevalence of serological markers of Hepatitis B infection in patients with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD).

Material and methods: We studied 76 IBD patients who presented or were under the follow up of the Department of Gastroenterology, Christian Medical College Vellore, India. The basic demographic data, IBD related history, risk factors for hepatitis B transmission, hepatitis B immunization details and markers of hepatitis B infection (HBsAg and Anti HBc) were assessed.

Results: Out of the 76 patients, 42(55.3%) had ulcerative colitis, 33(44.3%) had Crohn's disease while 1(1.3%) had indeterminate colitis. The overall mean age for the entire study population was 37.5 ± 13.9 years. The overall median total duration of illness at the time of inclusion of the study was 35(1-410) months while the overall median duration prior to diagnosis of illness was 7.5(1-228) months. The overall male: female ratio was 1.7:1 (48:28). Hepatitis B markers (HBsAg/Anti-HBc) were positive in 9(11.8%, 95% CI: 6.4-21%) out of 76 patients with inflammatory bowel disease. None of the patients who were positive for hepatitis B markers had features of chronic liver disease or portal hypertension. Out of the multiple risk factors studied mean age ($P=0.034$), non IBD related surgeries ($P=0.009$) and non IBD related hospital admission ($P=0.008$) were significantly more common in those positive for viral markers compared who were not. Out of 76 patients studied, only 7(9.2%) patients had completed 3 doses of vaccination.

Conclusion: In our study, we found that the prevalence of hepatitis B infection in IBD patients was similar to that of the general population in India. While several guidelines recommend hepatitis B vaccination in IBD, only 9.2% of our patients had completed 3 doses of vaccination

Key words: IBD, Hepatitis B