

Hepatitis E Virus Infection in Hemodialysis: A Seroepidemiological Survey in Gorgan

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Background & Objectives: Hepatitis E virus is the most common cause of acute adult hepatitis in Asia, North Africa and in the Middle East after hepatitis B. HEV infection spreads by the fecal-oral route and the transmission with contaminated water is more than contaminated food. However, vertical parenteral (especially in endemic region) and sexually transmission are probable. Transmission by blood transfusion has been observed. This study was done to determine the prevalence of HEV-Ab in hemodialysis patients.

Methods: This was a cross-sectional descriptive study which was done on hemodialysis patients in Gorgan. 5ml of blood were sent to a laboratory and were evaluated for the presence of HEV total Ab by ELISA Methods (by Bindlaver, manufactured by USA). Data such as age, sex, ethnicity, duration of diseases and number of hemodialysis in a week, were collected via questionnaires.

Results: From 150 patients, 74 patients (49.33%) were men and 76 patients (50.66%) were women. HEV-Ab was detected in 6 persons (4%). The differences of age, sex, ethnicity, duration of diseases and number of hemodialysis in a week were not significant ($P > 0.05$).

Conclusion: This study not shows that hemodialysis may cause transmission of hepatitis E. More controlled studies are needed to explore this association.

Keywords: Hepatitis E; Hemodialysis; ELISA