

PREVALENCE OF HEPATITIS C INFECTION AMONG PATIENTS ON MAINTENANCE HAEMODIALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

A 5 years prospective study was carried out at Nephrology Centre of Combined Military Hospital (CMH) Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka, Bangladesh between 1998-2002 to examine the prevalence of hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection among haemodialysis patients. Serum from 56 haemodialysis (HD) patients [males: 36(64.5%) females 20(35.5%), age range : 30-70 years, mean age: 45±12.5 years] were analyzed for HCV antibody (HCV ab) by second generation enzyme immunoassay (EIA) at Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP), Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka. Patients were categorized into three subgroups : (a) serving (b) retired and (c) non-entitled patients. The rates of anti-HCV positivity among these three groups of patients were 0%, 26.5% and 35% respectively. Similarly, the number of anti-HCV ab positive cases among three socio-economic levels i.e. poor, middle and affluent classes were 26.5%, 20% and 9% respectively. A total of 11(19.5%) patients were anti-HCV ab positive. Number of anti-HCV ab positive cases were more in poor and non-entitled patients. Number of positivity also increased among patients on dialysis for longer duration. Anti-HCV ab positive cases among patients with <1 year, 1-2 years and >2 years of haemodialysis were 10%, 20% and 36% respectively. Blood used for transfusion supplied by paid donors at commercial blood banks and haemodialysis at multiple centres at different times appear to poss extra risk of HCV infection as found in poor and non-entitled patients in this study.

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CHRONIC ARSENICOSIS FROM GROUND WATER CONTAMINATION: A THREAT TO CHILDREN OF BANGLADESH

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ABSTRACT

Chronic arsenicosis is a multi system disease and occurs after prolong intake of low dose arsenic by ingestion, inhalation or contact. In Bangladesh due to prolong ingestion of contaminated ground water over years many people are suffering from chronic arsenicosis. More than 14000 patients have been identified since 1996 among whom children are also affected. In rapid assessment program (Rap) study done in 500 villages among 2327 patients 163 (9.3%) patients were children. In the survey done by Dhaka Community Hospital (DCH) and School of Environmental Studies (SOES) out of 4965 total patients 1014 were children. In Bera thana of Pabna district 120 patients were identified of which 25% were children. Both male and female children are affected and suffered from specific and non-specific manifestations of chronic arsenicosis. Melanosis, keratosis, hyperkeratosis, leucomelanosis along with malnutrition, respiratory infections and anaemia were main presentations. Oedema and gangrene were less frequent. No child was seen with malignant changes but many have premalignant changes. A number of children also had high level of body burden of arsenic. Cancer risk estimates of chronic arsenicosis is about 1 in 100 of those exposed to arsenic contamination. A large portion of our population (47%) is child and 97% populations are drinking tube well water of which 40-50% is estimated to be contaminated. Arsenic being a potential carcinogen and evidenced to cause malignancy of skin, bladder, lung and other internal organs along with other health hazards, is obviously a threat to our children. The children who were having high levels of arsenic in their body may ultimately suffer from cancer in the future.

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A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF CANDIDA INFECTION IN PREGNANT AND NON-PREGNANT WOMEN

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ABSTRACT

It was a cross sectional study carried out among the pregnant and non-pregnant women to know the incidence of candida infection. A total of 60 samples were tested, 30 were pregnant and 30 were non-pregnant matching group. The incidence of candida infection among pregnant women was 40%, whereas in non-pregnant women it was 13.33%. The difference was statistically significant ($P < 0.05$). Majority of women from both the groups (50%) showed positive for Candida were illiterate. All the positive cases for candida infection had discharge per vagina with intense itching and the finding was significant ($p < 0.01$). It was further observed that women belonging to low socio-economical class suffered more from the infection and also, improper practice of personal hygiene contributed in the spread of such infection.

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SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY SYNDROME (SARS) : AN UPDATE

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ABSTRACT

Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) is an acute respiratory infection caused by a virus. The disease originated in southern China. It has been reported in South East region of Asia including China, Hong Kong and Singapore and also in North America and Europe. It is a form of atypical pneumonia caused by an RNA virus, a coronavirus of the same family that causes common colds. The virus is also named CROWN, as it resembles a flower or a crown in shape. The name Urbani SARS associated virus (after the name of the doctor who first described it) has also been proposed. The disease is not fatal in most of the cases. With early detection and treatment there is a high chance of recovery. Severe cases are usually seen in patients with pre-existing health problems or who seek treatment at a late stage.

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NEUROBIOLOGICAL BASIS OF SUICIDAL BEHAVIOR IN DEPRESSED PATIENTS : A REVIEW

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ABSTRACT

As seen from outside, the effects of depressive disorders on a human subject is mainly psychological. But the most dangerous problem seen in many depressed patients is suicidality. About 15% of all the patients suffering from Major Affective Disorders die by suicide. For many years the etiology behind the suicidal behavior was far away from human biology. Researches conducted on genetic factors, neurotransmitters, hormones, endocrine glands and brain centers, mainly those after 1990, revealed the neurobiological involvement in suicidality. These neurobiological correlates helped to draw attention of the medical professionals about suicidality, thus mental health, from sole psychological viewpoint to mixed etiology.

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**CASE STUDIES OF THE PRELIMINARY MEDICAL TREATMENT
OF ATROPHIC RHINITIS IN MCW&H UTTARA DHAKA**

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ABSTRACT

This article presents a review of 39 cases of Atrophic Rhinitis treated medically in the Dept. of ENT & Head-Neck Surgery, Medical College for Women & Hospital (MCW&H) in one year period from 14 August 2002 to 14 August 2003. The disease was found to be prevalent in young females of low socio-economic condition. Commonest presentations were nasal obstruction with passage of greenish yellow crusts and foul smell felt within the vicinity of the patient. Duration of the symptoms ranged from 6 months to 3 years. Conservative treatment along with Cap Rifampicin showed marked improvement of the symptoms.

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INCOMPLETE UTERINE SEPTUM: IS IT THE CAUSE OF INTRAUTERINE GROWTH RETARDATION?

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ABSTRACT

Among the uterine factors of intrauterine growth retardation (IUGR) incomplete septum of uterus, though not a very established cause, can hamper appropriate fetal growth probably by interfering placental function. This paper presents two case reports where IUGR was accompanied with incomplete uterine septum revealed during caesarean section.

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DAY CARE SURGERY IN OTOLARYNGOLOGY

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ABSTRACT

Day care surgery is an operation/procedure where the patient would normally be discharged on the same day. Fortunately, the ENT surgeon can offer the choice of day care surgery in the following subspecialties of Otolaryngology: Ear surgery, Nasal Surgery, Throat and laryngeal surgery and thyroid surgery. The various aspects of surgical procedures, criteria for case selection, criteria for a day care unit, advantages and disadvantages for day care surgery were reviewed in the light of recent practices and literature.

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