Indian Journal of Basic and Applied Medical Research, March 2015: Vol.-4, Issue- 2, P. 552-559

**Original article**
**Seroprevalence and risk factors in blood-borne viral hepatitis cases attending a tertiary care hospital in Lucknow**
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**Abstract**

**Background:** Blood-borne viral hepatitis is a major public health problem and is an important cause of morbidity and mortality, worldwide. Data regarding prevalence of HBV and HCV in our region is not available. Our aim was to study the prevalence and risk factors of viral Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C cases in patients attending a tertiary care hospital in Lucknow, U.P.

**Materials and methods:** A prospective study of HBV and HCV positive cases was performed. Demographic details and risk factors were analyzed**.** Fisher’s exact test was used and a p value of < 0.05 was considered to be statistically significant**.**

**Results:** Out of total 2737 patients screened 103 (3.7%) were found to be positive for Hepatitis B surface antigen (HB s Ag +ve) and 35 (1.7%) for anti-HCV antibody by rapid card test. Hepatitis B was more prevalent in males (45.6%) of 31-40 years age group (26.9%) with low education (27.2%) belonging to middle socioeconomic status (34.8%). Prevalence of HCV was more in illiterate (37.1%), females (13.8%) of 31-40 years age group (57.9%) belonging to middle socioeconomic status (45.7%). Use of unsterilized needle (29%) was the most common risk factor followed by drug abuse (23.2%) in both type of hepatitis cases. On comparison between HBV and HCV cases, statistically significant difference between indoor and outdoor patients, male female ratio, literacy levels, socioeconomic status and risk factors was found.

**Conclusion:** Prevalence of HBV and HCV were found to be inversely related to education level and socioeconomic status.