

Reviews and Information from Peer-Reviewed Journal Worldwide  
and Special Attention to Iran and Other Middle East Countries .  
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## Hepatitis in Iran

### Prevalence of hepatitis C virus infection and related risk factors among Iranian haemodialysis patients

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Hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection is common among patients undergoing haemodialysis, and liver disease is an important cause of morbidity and mortality in this population. Management of HCV- related liver disease is a major health concern in patients with end-stage renal disease (ESRD) undergoing haemodialysis. To investigate the prevalence of HCV infection in patients on haemodialysis and its associated risk factors, we conducted a prospective case series study of 838 patients on haemodialysis in Tehran, Iran. Patients were selected randomly (cluster sampling) and all were screened for anti-HCV antibodies, using ELISA 3rd generation and confirmed by using RIBA 2nd generation. We found that 111 patients (13.2%) were infected. By applying univariate analysis, longer duration on haemodialysis ( $P = 0.000$ ), more weekly dialysis sessions ( $P = 0.03$ ), history of blood transfusion ( $P = 0.03$ ) and history of previous renal transplantation ( $P = 0.01$ ) were found to be associated with a higher rate of HCV infection. Multivariate analysis revealed that only length of time on dialysis ( $P = 0.000$ ) and history of blood transfusion ( $P = 0.02$ ) were significantly associated with HCV infection. The more the units transfused, the higher the rate of HCV infection. Our results suggest that early transplantation and avoidance of blood transfusion, as much as possible, are the two most important practical interventions to reduce the HCV exposure rate in our patients on haemodialysis.

## Prevalence and risk factors for hepatitis B virus Infections among STD patients in northeast region of Iran

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In many parts of the world, sexual transmission of hepatitis B virus plays a major role in acquisition of infections. In Northeast region of Iran the prevalence rate and risk factors influencing this type of transmission was not investigated. Therefore, the concurrence of hepatitis B virus (HBV) and STDs was studied to determine the prevalence and risk factors of sexual transmission of hepatitis B virus. This study was carried out among 1500 attendances to the laboratories for STDs examination between 1998 and 2000. Those who were positive for STDs (syphilis & gonorrhea) were examined for HBV infection by determination of hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg). The data was analyzed and compared to the normal population. The prevalence of STD in this population was 4.66% for syphilis and 6% for gonorrhea.

Among this population the seroprevalence of HBsAg was 10% in women and 14.2% in men (mean seroprevalence of HBsAg was 13.13%). The concurrence of hepatitis B virus and syphilis was 14.28% which was slightly higher than concurrence for gonorrhea (12.22%). The prevalence of HBV in our patient population was high, exceeding the national estimates. This population also represents a high-risk group in Northeast of Iran. Further, our data indicates that such high prevalence is significantly more evident in patients with low socioeconomic status.