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Evaluation of incidence, genotypes and risk factors of newly diagnosed Hepatitis C cases in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan

Hepatitis C is a global health problem brought on by the hepatitis C virus (HCV). The major risk factors of the disease include Injection drug users, contaminated medical instruments, blood transfusion, organ transplant, major surgery, dialysis, dental surgery and acupuncture etc. The aim of this study was to identify the prevalence of active HCV infection, genotypes, and their associated risk factors in newly infected patients of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. A total of 230 HCV cases and 245 control subjects were enrolled. Our findings revealed that disease infection rates were higher in females (52.6%) than males (47.4%), and disease was more prevalent in the age 30–40 (39.6%) group. In our data set the risk factors of the disease were dental surgery, major surgery, disease infamily, barber community, blood received, injection drug users, acu p ncture and organ transplantation. Odds ratio were significantly higher (10.91) for those who used acupuncture as compared to those who had not. Similarly, odds were significantly higher (10.91) with history of acupuncture followed by (10.03 times) for those who have HCV in family, dialysis (9.377), dental surgery (7.618), major surgery (6.813), barber community (5.328) and blood received (2.252) compared to control group. However, the frequent genotype was 3a (63%) followed by un-typeable (11.30%). The study concluded with similar risk factors identified decades ago. Serious intervention is required to control the HCV infection while critically reviewing the healthcare facilities of the region.

Keywords: Hepatitis C, incidence, major risk factors, genotype

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