

Occult Hepatitis B in Hemodialysis Patients is a Debate

Sir,

I read with interest the published article by Kalantari *et al.*^[1] in your journal recently. The authors presented the zero prevalence for occult hepatitis B virus (HBV) in patients on hemodialysis in Isfahan. However, I would like to highlight some points about occult HBV among them. Occult HBV patients may be seronegative (both hepatitis B core antibody [anti-HBcAb] and hepatitis B surface [anti-HBs] antibody are negative) or seropositive (anti-HBc is positive with or without anti-HBs positivity).^[2] Occult HBV is predominantly detected in patients with isolated anti-HBc (hepatitis B surface antigen [HBsAg] negative, anti-HBs negative and anti-HBc positive). Ramezani *et al.* showed that 1% of patients on hemodialysis with HBsAg-negative had occult HBV with positive HBV DNA in their serum without considering their HBcAb status.^[3] It seems that if the authors would done in all hemodialysis HBsAg-negative group, the result would be clearer and it seems that the occult HBV had underestimated in their study group. However, currently available evidence suggests a relatively high prevalence of occult hepatitis B in hemodialysis patients. Conventional serologic testing used in most hemodialysis centers is not able to identify the occult infection.^[4]

Financial support and sponsorship

Nil.

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

Seyed Moayed Alavian

Baqiyatallah Research Center for Gastroenterology and Liver Diseases,
Baqiyatallah University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, IR Iran

Address for correspondence:

Prof. Seyed Moayed Alavian,
Baqiyatallah Research Center for Gastroenterology and Liver Diseases,
Baqiyatallah University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, IR Iran.
E-mail: alavian@thc.ir

References

1. Kalantari H, Ferdowsi F, Yaran M. Prevalence of occult hepatitis B virus infection in hemodialysis patients in Isfahan, Iran. *Adv Biomed Res* 2016;5:151.
2. Chu CJ, Lee SD. Occult hepatitis B virus infection in patients with chronic hepatitis C: An actor behind the scene or just a bystander? *J Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2010;25:221-3.
3. Ramezani A, Aghasadeghi MR, Ahmadi F, Razeghi E, Eslamifar A, Banifazl M, *et al.* Isolated anti-HBc and occult HBV infection in dialysis patients. *Nephrourol Mon* 2014;7:e22674.
4. Hollinger FB, Habibollahi P, Daneshmand A, Alavian SM. Occult hepatitis B infection in chronic hemodialysis patients: Current concepts and strategy. *Hepat Mon* 2010;10:199-204.

This is an open access journal, and articles are distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 License, which allows others to remix, tweak, and build upon the work non-commercially, as long as appropriate credit is given and the new creations are licensed under the identical terms.

| Access this article online | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Quick Response Code: | Website: www.advbiores.net |
|  | DOI: 10.4103/abr.abr_233_16 |

How to cite this article: Alavian SM. Occult Hepatitis B in Hemodialysis Patients is a Debate. *Adv Biomed Res* 2018;7:104.

© 2018 Advanced Biomedical Research | Published by Wolters Kluwer - Medknowx