

THE PREVALENCE OF HEPATITIS IN THE POPULATION

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Abstract

This article analyzes the incidence of hepatitis among the population over time. The prevalence of viral hepatitis A is highest in Africa and South Asia, where it amounts to 500–600 cases per 100,000 people. In the district population, the largest number of cases was recorded in 2017, while the fewest were identified in 2019–2020.

Keywords: Population, hepatitis, morbidity, retrospective analysis, prevention.

Introduction

Viral hepatitis A is one of the most widespread diseases in the world and ranks third in frequency after acute respiratory viral infections and acute intestinal infectious diseases. According to the World Health Organization, approximately 1.5 million people contract viral hepatitis A each year. The disease is most commonly observed in children aged 2 to 7 years. Among liver diseases, hepatitis A occupies a leading position and accounts for 65–75% of all viral hepatitis cases. The prevalence of viral hepatitis A is highest in Africa and South Asia, at 500–600 cases per 100,000 people. In Russia, the prevalence of viral hepatitis A has declined significantly in recent years, reaching 60–80 cases per 100,000 people. Hepatitis A (infectious jaundice) has been known since ancient times. The hepatitis A virus is a microorganism with a diameter of 27 nanometers. Its genetic material is contained in single-stranded RNA. The virus belongs to the Picornaviridae family and the genus Enterovirus. It has one antigen. It is destroyed within five minutes of boiling, and ultraviolet rays also destroy it quickly. It is resistant to ether and acids. After vaccination against viral hepatitis A, immunity is said to remain strong for up to 15 years. The effectiveness of vaccination against viral hepatitis A is 95–98%. Where the population does not have an adequate supply of piped water and sewerage networks are absent in residential areas, the disease can spread easily. Low levels of public sanitation and failure to follow basic sanitation and hygiene rules further accelerate the spread of hepatitis.

Materials and Methods

A retrospective analysis was conducted of morbidity among the population over the period 2017–2020.





Results

Based on the above, we analyzed the prevalence of viral hepatitis overall and viral hepatitis A among the population and obtained the following results. The number of cases of viral hepatitis overall in the study area during 2017–2020 was as follows: in 2017, 19 cases (1,320 nationwide); in 2018, 6 cases (1,448 nationwide); in 2019, 1 case (1,075 nationwide); and in 2020, 1 case (298 nationwide). The results of the analysis of viral hepatitis A as a proportion of all viral hepatitis cases among the population were as follows: in 2017, 19 cases (1,320 nationwide); in 2018, 5 cases (1,462 nationwide); in 2019, 1 case (1,051 nationwide); and in 2020, 1 case (287 nationwide).

Conclusion

It can be concluded that the highest number of cases of this disease among the district population was recorded in 2017, while the fewest were identified in 2019–2020. Therefore, the following measures are recommended to prevent the disease: wash hands with soap before eating and after using the toilet; wash fruit and vegetables before eating them; make a habit of drinking only boiled water; locate toilets at least 25 meters away from kitchens and common rooms; ensure that toilet pits have covers and are regularly disinfected with bleaching powder; prevent the proliferation of flies; and do not leave food products or drinking water uncovered.

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