

O5. Prevalence of HIV co-infection among newly diagnosed patients with chronic hepatitis B or C in Denmark – a nationwide cohort study

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Background

Patients with chronic hepatitis B (CHB) and/or chronic hepatitis C (CHC) and co-infection with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) develop more rapidly progressing liver disease than patients with chronic viral hepatitis without HIV co-infection. Thus, it is important to identify patients with HIV co-infection among patients with viral hepatitis. Danish guidelines recommend HIV testing of all patients newly diagnosed with chronic viral hepatitis. We undertook our study in order to determine the prevalence of HIV among patients newly diagnosed with chronic viral hepatitis and the proportion of patients tested for HIV over time.

Methods

We identified patients newly diagnosed with chronic viral hepatitis between January 2002 and March 2013 in the Danish Database of Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C (DANHEP). All patients in Denmark with CHB and/or CHC receiving specialised hospital care are registered in DANHEP. From DANHEP we extracted data on HIV antibody/antigen test results, HCV-RNA, HBsAg and demographics. All patients with at least one positive HCV-RNA and/or a positive HBsAg of at least 18 years of age were included. We calculated the proportion of patients with positive, negative and unknown HIV status stratified by type of chronic viral hepatitis. We calculated the proportion of patients tested for HIV each year for the period 2002 to 2012.

Results

We identified 7035 individual patients within DANHEP after having excluded 270 patients due to uncertain viral hepatitis status or age < 18 years. Among the 7035 included patients 2407 (34%) had CHB, 4554 (65%) had CHC and 74 (1%) had both CHB and CHC. The prevalence of HIV was 3.4% for patients with CHB, 5.7% for CHC and 6.8% for both CHB and CHC ($p=0.0001$). The proportion of newly diagnosed chronic viral hepatitis patients who were tested for HIV were 69.8% for patients with CHB, 81.6% for CHC and 79.7% for both CHB and CHC ($p<0.0001$). The overall proportion of patients who were tested for HIV increased from 62.3% in 2002 to 87.6% in 2012. The prevalence of HIV co-infection among patients with chronic viral hepatitis fell steadily from 7.9% in patients diagnosed in 2002 to 1.3% in 2012.

Conclusions

The prevalence of HIV co-infection among patients newly diagnosed with chronic viral hepatitis in Denmark was relatively low, though highest among patients with CHC or both CHB and CHC. The prevalence of HIV fell over time concurrently with improved HIV testing frequency.