

Anti-HCV Prevalence among Diabetic and Non-Diabetic Egyptian Children.

Abstract :Our aim was to determine the prevalence of the HCV infection among children with type 1 DM as compared to a group of non-diabetic children attending the general outpatient clinics of the same hospital and investigate the possible risk factors. The study was carried out on 692 children with type 1 DM attending the Pediatric Diabetes Unit at Cairo University Pediatric Hospital, Egypt, and 1042 non-diabetic children attending the general outpatient clinics of the same hospital. They were screened for HCV antibodies using third generation ELISA. Anti-HCV antibody prevalence in diabetic children below 9 years of age was comparable to that of non diabetic children (2.5% vs 2.5%, $p=0.25$). Diabetic children had higher exposure to medical care ($p=0.04$) (all diabetics were exposed to daily insulin injections and daily blood glucose monitoring. Non-diabetics had higher exposure to razors used by others) ($p=0.05$) (and higher rate of traditional hair cutting) ($p=0.05$). (To conclude, the prevalence of anti-HCV in diabetic children below 9 years of age was comparable to non diabetic children of the same age group. Application of standard precautions for infection control could successfully limit spread of HCV infection in our Pediatric Diabetes Unit, in a country with high HCV load as Egypt.