

Prevalence of hepatitis C virus infection among Egyptian patients with schizophrenia

Fawzi, M. H. Fawzi, M. M. Saeid, N. S.

Current Psychiatry. Ain Shams University (Print)

2009 v16 n1

The aim of the study is to determine the frequency of HCV infection in a sample of Egyptian schizophrenia patients. Subjects and method: A total of 413 patients with the diagnosis of schizophrenia according to ICD-10 were recruited. Both clinical and psychiatric evaluation was done followed by blood screening test for HCV antibodies using a third generation ELISA technique. Results: Of the 413 patients diagnosed of schizophrenia whom we studied, 131 (31.7%) were HCV positive compared to 86 (21.5%) HCV positive out of 400 control subjects ($p=0.001$). In all of the HCV positive individuals, the diagnosis of hepatitis C was a de-novo diagnosis. HCV infection was significantly higher among males than females in both patient ($p=0.010$) and control groups ($p=0.002$) and among older than younger patients ($p=0.000$) and controls ($p=0.000$). Correlations between history of injection for schistosomiasis and HCV infection in both patients and controls were highly significant ($p=0.000$) and also between intravenous drug addiction and HCV infection in patients ($p=0.000$) as well as in controls.