

LIVER DISEASE OUTCOME IN HEPATITIS B
AND HEPATITIS C VIRUS COINFECTED
CHILDREN UNDER IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE
THERAPY

Thesis

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تأثير العدوى المزدوجة بفيروسى الالتهاب الكبدى بى
وسى على كبد الاطفال الخاضعين للعلاج بمتبظات
المناعه

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Contents

	Page
• List of Abbreviations	I
• List of tables	IV
• List of figures	VII
• Introduction and aim of the work	1
• Review of literature	3
○ Chapter (1): Hepatitis B virus	4
○ Chapter (2): Hepatitis C virus	34
○ Chapter (3): Hepatitis B & C virus coinfection	57
○ Chapter (4): Hepatitis B & C in immuno-compromised children.	77
• Patients and methods	84
• Results	88
• Discussion	111
• Conclusions	127
• Recommendations	128
• Summary	129
• References	131
• Appendix	
• Arabic summary	

List of abbreviations

- AASLD: American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases.
- ACIP: Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.
- ALL: Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia.
- ALT: Alanine Aminotransaminase
- Anti-HBc: Anti hepatitis B core antigen.
- Anti-HBe: Anti hepatitis B envelop antigen.
- Anti-HBs: Anti hepatitis B surface antigen.
- Anti-HCV: Antibodies against HCV.
- APASL: Asian Pacific Association for the Study of the Liver.
- AST: Aspartate Aminotransferase.
- BCP: Basal core promotor.
- BMT: Bone marrow transplantation.
- CD8: Cluster of differentiation or cluster of determination number 8.
- CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- CLD: chronic liver disease.
- DNA: Deoxyribo nucleic acid.
- EASL: European Association for the Study of the Liver.
- EIA: Enzyme immunoassay.
- ELISA: Enzyme linked immunosorbent assay.
- EOTR: end of treatment response.
- EVR: early virological response.

- FDA: Food & drug administration.
- FS: Fibrosis stage.
- HAI: Histologic activity index.
- HBcAg: Hepatitis B core antigen.
- HBeAg: Hepatitis B envelop antigen.
- HBIG: Hepatitis B Immunoglobulin.
- HBsAg: Hepatitis B surface antigen.
- HBV: Hepatitis B virus.
- HCC: Hepatocellular carcinoma.
- HCV: Hepatitis C virus.
- HCV-4: Hepatitis C virus genotype 4.
- HCW: Health care workers.
- HD: Hemodialysis
- HIV: Human immune deficiency virus
- IDU: Intravenous drug users.
- IgG: Immunoglobulin G.
- IgM: Immunoglobulin M.
- IFN- α : Interferon –Alfa.
- INR: international normalized ratio.
- LAM: Lamivudine.
- MHC: Major histocompatibility complex.
- MU: Mega units.
- NIH: National Institutes of Health.
- PCR: Polymerase chain reaction.
- PEG-IFN: Peginterferon.

- PNET: Primitive neuroectodermal tumour.
- P-P septa: Periportal septa.
- RBV: Ribavirin.
- RIBA: Recombinant immunoblot assays.
- RNA: Ribo nucleic acid.
- RT / Pol: Reverse transcriptase / polymerase.
- RVR: Rapid virologic response.
- SVR: Sustained virologic response.
- VHPB: Viral Hepatitis Prevention Board.
- WHO: World health organization.

List of Tables

No	Title	page
1	Hepatitis B definitions.	10
2	Interpretation of serologic testing.	14
3	Components of the Metavir scoring system and the Ishak grading system.	46
4	AASLD Recommendations for Treatment of Chronic Hepatitis C.	51
5	Side Effects of Antiviral Therapy.	54
6	Summary of the trials of Interferon-based therapy for HCV–HBV dually infected patients.	74
7	The recommendations for therapy of coinfectd patients.	76
8	Demographic features for the studied patients.	88
9	Sex distribution among studied patients.	89
10	Frequency of transfusion of blood&/or blood products received by studied patients as a risk factor for hepatitis transmission.	90
11	Radiotherapy as a line of treatment among different groups.	91
12	The outcome of malignancy among the three groups.	92
13	Mean duration of hepatitis infection in the 3 hepatitis groups.	92
14	The number of patients +ve for HBs Ag among coinfectd & HBV infected patients.	93

No	Title	page
15	HBeAg results among coinfectd & HBV infected patients.	94
16	HBsAb positivity among the three hepatitis groups.	95
17	Anti HCV antibodies positivity among coinfectd & HCV infected patients.	95
18	HBV DNA qualitative assessment by PCR for coinfectd & HBV infected patients.	96
19	Number of patients who received lamivudine therapy in the coinfectd & the HBV infected group.	96
20	Response to Lamivudine therapy in both groups.	97
21	Quantitative Real Time (R-T PCR) For HCV positive patients (viral load).	97
22	Type of INF therapy received by coinfectd & HCV infected groups.	99
23	Response to INF therapy plus ribavirin among the coinfectd & HCV infected patients.	100
24	The mean numbers of hepatitis flares in different types of viral hepatitis during follow up.	101
25	The mean duration of chemotherapy, mean total number of hepatitis flares, histological activity index, and fibrosis stage in the 1 st & 2 nd biopsy for the three groups of patients.	102
26	The mean necroinflammatory score & F.S. for the 14 pts who have done 2 liver biopsies in relation to treatment	103

No.	Title	page
27	Grades of fibrosis among the 3 groups of patients as detected in the 1 st liver biopsy (modified Ishak score).	104
28	Grades of fibrosis among the hepatitis patients as detected in the 2nd liver biopsy (modified Ishak score).	105
29	Correlation between number of hepatitis flares & grade of fibrosis (in 1 st biopsy).	106
30	Correlation between type of malignancy & grade of fibrosis.	108
31	Correlation between modified Ishak HAI and modified Ishak FS and different parameters in the studied patients.	109

List of Figures

No.	Title	page
Figure (1):	Electron micrograph of circulating forms of HBV particles in the blood is shown at the top and a schematic drawing of Dane particle, the infectious HBV particle, is shown at the bottom with various structural features.	5
Figure (2):	The clinical course and serologic profiles of (A) acute and (B) chronic hepatitis B.	9
Figure (3):	Algorithm for follow-up of HBV carriers who are HBeAg-positive (A) or HBeAg-negative (B).	22
Figure (4):	Course of a patient with chronic hepatitis B treated with an antiviral agent who develops genotypic resistance, followed by virological and biochemical breakthrough and viral rebound with a flare of hepatitis.	32
Figure (5):	Worldwide prevalence of chronic HCV.	37
Figure (6):	Anti- HCV Antibody as initial test for diagnosis of HCV infection.	42
Figure (7):	Sequential steps for managing and treating patients with chronic HCV infection, genotype 1 or 4.	52
Figure (8):	Types of malignancies among studied population.	90
Figure (9):	Frequency of hepatitis among the studied patients.	98
Figure (10):	Correlation between number of hepatitis flares related to chemotherapy & grade of fibrosis (in 1st biopsy).	107

Introduction

Hepatitis B virus (HBV) and Hepatitis C virus (HCV) infections are the most common causes of chronic liver diseases worldwide. Both viruses could induce chronic hepatitis, which may progress to cirrhosis and eventually hepatocellular carcinoma (**Fan et al., 2003**).

HBV is a double stranded DNA virus and its genome has 4 genes (**Wormann and Lin, 2002**). The prevalence rate of hepatitis B surface antigen in the Egyptian population is intermediate (4.5%) (**Mohammed et al., 2006**). About 90% of infected neonates and 50% of infected young children (1-5 years) will develop chronic hepatitis whereas the percent is only 2-6% of acutely infected older children and adults. In immunocompromised children there is increased risk for chronicity (30-100%) (**Pol, 2006**).

HCV is a single stranded RNA enveloped virus and a member of flaviviridae family with 6 genotypes, the commonest in Egypt is genotype 4 (**Penin F et al; 2004, Abdel Aziz F et al; 2000**). Egypt has the highest prevalence of HCV worldwide (15%) (**Egyptian Ministry of Health Annual Report: 2007**). Asymptomatic HCV is detectable in 2.02% of Egyptian children (**El-Raziky et al., 2007**). In Egypt, 8.8% of blood donors' sera in 13 governorates were positive for anti-HCV (**Tanaka et al, 2004**).

As a result of shared routes of infection, HBV and HCV coinfection is not uncommon, especially in areas with a high prevalence of HBV infection. Patients who are coinfecting represent

a unique group with diverse serologic profiles. Combined chronic hepatitis B and C leads to more severe liver disease and increased risk for hepatocellular carcinoma. Furthermore coinfecting patients represent a treatment challenge (**Crockett and Keefe, 2005**).

In general, the prevalence of coinfection is around 10-20% in patients with chronic HBV infection, and 2-10% of anti-HCV positive patients to have markers of HBV infection (**Liu and Hou, 2006**).

Immunocompromised children are considered high risk population for infection with hepatitis B and C concurrently. They include those with malignant neoplasms, receiving radiotherapy or chemotherapy, on chronic haemodialysis, organ transplant patients, human immunodeficiency virus infected patients and haematological patients with frequent blood transfusion as haemophiles and thalassemics (**Liu and Hou, 2006**).

Infection by HBV rather than HCV causes more severe liver disease in children with haematological malignancies (**El-Sayed et al., 2003**).

Aim

The objective of this study is to assess the impact of coinfection with HBV and HCV on the outcome of liver disease in children receiving immunosuppressive therapy.

Viral hepatitis

The term hepatitis describes inflammation of the liver. Hepatitis may be caused by alcohol, drugs, autoimmune diseases, metabolic diseases, and viruses. Viral infection accounts for more than half the cases of acute hepatitis in the world (*Mahoney et al, 1997*).

In the strictest sense, the term "viral hepatitis" includes a series of clinical conditions of infectious origin caused by five phylogenetically unrelated human viruses that have developed specific tropism to hepatocytes. In a broader sense, it also includes acute liver diseases due to infection by other viruses that do not display specific liver tropism, but may produce liver disease as a complication of the infection. Hepatitis B and C viruses have, in addition, developed strategies that allow them to establish long-lasting, chronic infections in some patients (*Echevarria-Mayo JM; 2006*).

***Acute hepatitis: (*Wasley et al, 2007*)**

Clinical Case Definition: Acute hepatitis was defined as acute illness with 1) discrete onset of symptoms (e.g., nausea, anorexia, fever, malaise, or abdominal pain) and 2) jaundice or elevated serum aminotransferase levels.

***Chronic hepatitis:**

Hepatitis B virus (HBV) and Hepatitis C virus (HCV) infections are the most common causes of chronic liver diseases worldwide. Both viruses could induce chronic hepatitis, which may progress to cirrhosis and eventually hepatocellular carcinoma (*Fan et al., 2003*).