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ثبكة المعلومات الجامعية





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ثبكة المعلومات الجامعية







#### HEPATITIS E VIRUS INFECTION AMONG CASES OF ACUTE VIRAL HEPATITIS IN ALEXANDRIA (EGYPT)

#### Thesis

Submitted to the High Institute of Public Health
University of Alexandria
In partial fulfilment of the
Requirements of the degree of

# Master of Public Health (Microbiology)

By

#### **Dalia Mohamed Mohamed El-Ramady**

MBBCh, 1996

Faculty of Medicine, Alexandria

g et

High Institute of Public Health
University of Alexandria

### **SUPERVISORS**

#### Drof. Dr. Hadia Ahmed Abou-Donia,

Professor of Microbiology

High Institute of Public Health

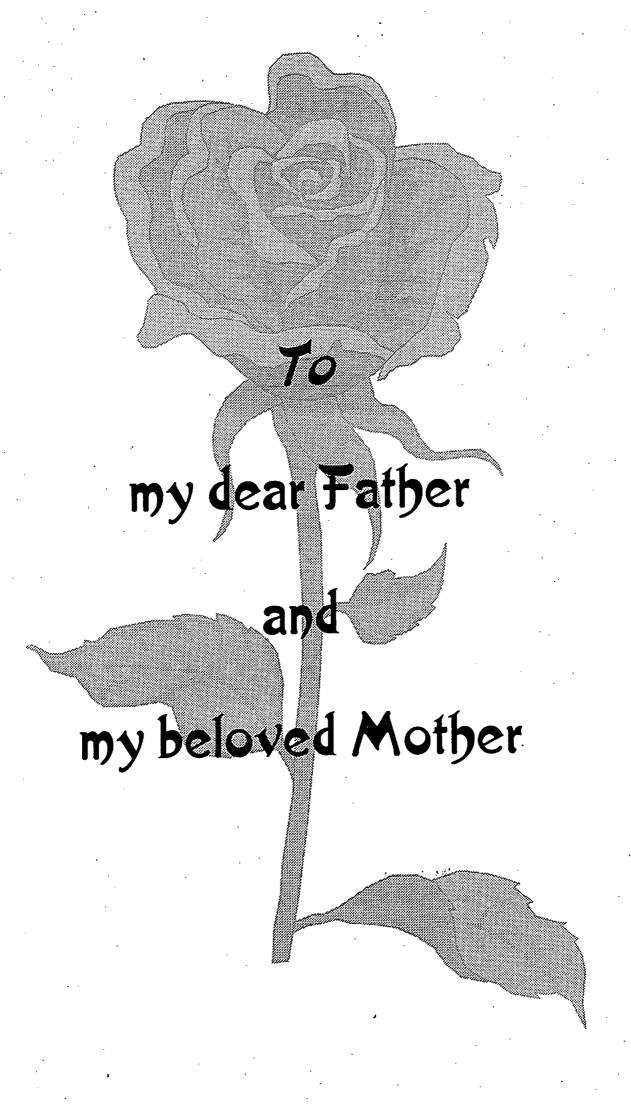
Alexandria University

#### Dr. Ahmed Hussien Yousry,

Assistant Professor of Microbiology,

High Institute of Public Health, Brld. And Jasandria University





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**Arabic Summary** 

#### LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ALT Alanine aminotransferase

Anti-HAV Antibodies against hepatitis A virus

Anti-HBc Antibodies against hepatitis B virus core antigen
Anti-Hbe Antibodies against hepatitis B virus e antigen

Anti-HEV Antibodies against hepatitis E virus
Anti-hIgM Anti-human immunoglobulin M

COV Cut off value

ELISA Enzyme linked immunosorbant assay

EM Electron microscope

ET-NANB Enterically transmitted non-A, non-B

FITC Fluorescein isothiocyanate

GBV-C GB virus C

HAV Hepatitis A virus
HBV Hepatitis B virus
HbeAg Hepatitis B e antigen
HbsAg Hepatitis B core antigen

HDV Hepatitis D virus
HCV Hepatitis C virus
HDV Hepatitis D virus
HEV Hepatitis E virus
HFV Hepatitis F virus
HGV Hepatitis G virus

HRP Horse radish peroxidase
IEM Immunoelectron microscope

NC Negative control OD Optic density

OPD O-Phenylenediamine
ORF Open reading frame
PC Positive coltrol

RT-PCR Reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction

TMB Tetramethylbenzidine VLPs Virus like particles

# INTRODUCTION

#### INTRODUCTION

Six major viruses are the etiologic agents responsible for most clinical cases of viral hepatitis: hepatitis A virus (HAV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), hepatitis D virus (HDV), hepatitis E virus (HEV), and hepatitis G virus (HGV). Deka and colleagues (1) have described what they designate hepatitis F virus (HFV).

Acute and chronic necro-inflammatory liver disease caused by hepatotropic virus infection continues to be a major worldwide health problem. Approximately 5% of the world's population has chronic hepatitis B virus (HBV) (2) as many as 100% of the residents of nonindustrial nations and 70% of the residents of industrial nations have serologic evidence of prior exposure to hepatitis A virus (HAV), (3) and in the United States, end-stage liver disease caused by chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) is the most common indication for liver transplantation. (4)

#### History of viral hepatitis

Inflammation of the liver is not a new disease. Early documents such as the Ebers papyrus (1552 BC) mentioned liver ailments, as did the Babylonian Talmud (5th century BC). The epidemic nature of viral hepatitis was manifested in battlefields. For example, approximately 72,000 cases of jaundice were diagnosed among the Union Army soldiers fighting the American Civil War (1861-1865). Similarly, large epidemics of jaundice occurred during the Japan-Russia war (1904-1905) and during World Wars II and I. (5) During World War II, more than 50,000 American soldiers who received yellow fever vaccine developed hepatitis, and 62 died. (6) In a follow-up study of 597 service men, and using modern serologic methods, Seeff and coworkers (7) confirmed that HBV had been the cause of this outbreak.

In 1947, MacCallum <sup>(8)</sup> proposed the names hepatitis A and hepatitis B for what was known as infectious and serum hepatitis respectively. Blumberg and associates <sup>(9)</sup> reported the discovery of the Australia antigen in 1965; this antigen is now known as the hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg). This pivotal discovery allowed the serologic differentiation of HBV from other causes of viral hepatitis.

The identification of the hepatitis A viral particle by Feinstone and coworkers (10) accelerated the development of laboratory assays for an antibody to hepatitis A (anti-HAV). (11) The discovery of the delta agent reported by Rizzetto and colleagues (12) in 1977 allowed prompt development of diagnostic techniques for this agent. (13) Initially, exclusion of HAV and HBV infections was the basis of the diagnosis of HCV and HEV infections, then known as blood-borne (HCV) or waterborne (HEV) non-A, non-B hepatitis. In 1989, a group of scientists at the Chiron Laboratory in California reported the cloning of HCV (14) and developed an assay for the detection of an antibody to hepatitis C (anti-HCV). (15) HEV was first observed and reported in 1983 by Balayan and associates. (16) In 1990, Reves and colleagues (17) reported the sequencing of HEV. Assays for the determination of an antibody to HEV (anti-HEV) have been developed and described. (18,19,20) In 1995, investigators from Abbott Laboratories published the sequencing of three HGB agents: A, B, and C, (21) and investigators at Genelabs Technologies in California discovered the HGV. (22) The HFV has been reported to be a doublestranded DNA virus, transmissible to rhesus monkeys by inoculation with stool extracts from infected patients. (1)