Serological and Molecular Diagnosis of Occult Hepatitis B Virus Infection in Hepatitis C Chronic Liver Diseases.


Abstract:

Serological and Molecular Diagnosis of Occult Hepatitis B Virus Infection in Hepatitis C Chronic Liver Diseases. Daef EA1, Makhlouf NA2, Ahmed EH1, Mohamed AI3, Abd El Aziz MH3, El-Mokhtar MA1. Author information Abstract Occult Hepatitis B infection (OBI), defined as the presence of serum HBV DNA without detectable HBsAg, can be classified into seropositive OBI [anti-HBc and/or anti-hepatitis B surface (anti-HBs) positive] and seronegative OBI (anti-HBc and anti-HBs negative). We examined the role of anti-HBc as a screening test for OBI in HCV patients with chronic liver diseases and evaluated the possible impact of OBI on liver disease progression. 90 patients with hepatitis C related chronic liver diseases (CLD) and negative for HBsAg were divided into three equal groups; chronic hepatitis, liver cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Patients were tested for anti-HBc by ELISA and by PCR for S-gene. Total anti-HBc was found in 26 patients (28.9%). 8 patients (8.9%) had positive serum HBV DNA. Of these, 2 were positive for anti-HBc and 6 negative for anti-HBc. No correlation between OBI and severity of HCV related CLD was observed. In conclusion, as OBI was not associated with total anti-HBc, it is invaluable surrogate marker for OBI detection. PMID: 29120576

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