

Screening of Hepatitis B Virus Infection among HIV-Infected Patients Receiving Antiretroviral Therapy

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ABSTRACT

A cross-sectional study was conducted among HIV-infected patients in a university hospital to assess the prevalence of hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and the effect of antiretroviral therapy (ART) on the results of screening for HBV infection. There were 403 patients with a mean age of 42.3 years and 60.3 percent were male. Median (IQR) CD4 cell count was 395 (277-555) cells/mm³. HBV co-infection was observed in 33 (8.2%) patients. Prevalence of HBV co-infection was 6.1 percent in patients receiving ART at screening and 11.4 percent in patients without ART at screening. In multivariate analysis, the previous AST level prior to the initiation of ART [odds ratio (OR) 1.020; 95 percent confidence interval (CI), 1.007-1.034; p = 0.003] and undetectable HIV RNA at screening [OR 0.243; 95% CI, 0.068-0.870; p=0.030] were significantly associated with the results of screening for HBV co-infection. Liver function test results at screening were not associated with HBV co-infection. Screening for HBV co-infection in HIV-infected patients should not be omitted and should be performed prior to the initiation of ART. (*J Infect Dis Antimicrob Agents* 2010;27:69-75.)

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