FREQUENCY OF HBs ANTIGENAEMIA IN MEDICAL STAFF OF NISHTAR MEDICAL COLLEGE, MULTAN

Sir,

Using late X agglutination test (Human-West Germany), 91 medical personnel (54 doctors, 37 nurses) were screened for HBsAg. There were 52 males and 39 females whose ages ranged from 18-45 years (mean 26 years) and their mean hospital stay was 5.6 years. Three (3.3%) out of 91 cases were positive for HBsAg, of these two were doctors (both males) and one nurse. HBsAg carrier rates of 10.7% as 3.9% were reported from Islamabad in blood donors both from Army and hi general population1 while an HBsAg positivity rate of 11.3% and 11.7% was reported from Peshawar amongst blood donors and medical students respectively2 The positivity in health care personnel in Bahawalpur is reported to be 3.7%. The variations in figures of HBsAg positivity is probably an underestimation of the actual figures because of differences in the high/low risk groups that were screened and the method of screening used. The present figures of 3.3% in the high risk group are probably because screening with more sensitive methods like RIA or HA are likely to pick up more cases.

Yours faithfully
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REFERENCES