

Seroprevalence of Hepatitis A Virus infection among general population in Central-West Tunisia

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Abstract

In Tunisia, hepatitis A virus (HAV) represents a public health concern. Due to the progress in sanitation and socio-economic conditions, the epidemiology of HAV has shown dynamic changes over the past years. This study aimed to investigate the current seroprevalence of HAV antibodies (anti-HAV) among the residents of Thala, a rural setting in central-west Tunisia, to determine the age specific seroprevalence for HAV infection and co-infection with hepatitis C and B virus. A total of 1379 subjects (mean age: 25.0 ± 17.3 years, 555 males/ 824 females) were recruited between January and June 2014. The study population included 95 individuals previously known as hepatitis C positive. Serums samples were collected and screened for the detection of IgG anti-HAV, HBsAg and HBcAb by Elisa Test. The overall anti- HAV seroprevalence was about 84.7%. There was no statistically significant difference between male and female. On the 1379 tested individual, 219 were positive for HBcAb and 67 were positive for HBsAg. IgG anti- HAV were positive in 80.6% of HBsAg-positive patients (54 out of 67), 81.3% of HBcAb-positive patients (178 out of 219) and in 95.8% of HCV-positive patients (91 out of 95). HBV infection and HCV infection were statistically associated with a greater risk of positive anti-HAV antibody ($p < 0.001$). Our study revealed that Thala represents an intermediate endemicity level and that the introduction of vaccination against HAV in this region is recommended, especially for the hepatitis B or C infected person seronegative for HAV.

Biography:

Ghassen Kharroubi has received his medical degree from the

Faculty of Medicine of Tunis. He has a post graduate diploma in “Methodology, Statistics, Epidemiology and Clinical Research” from the Faculty of Medicine of Tunis, and “Regression methods in epidemiology” from the University of Bordeaux, France. He is currently assistant professor in preventive medicine at the Department of Medical Epidemiology of Pasteur Institute of Tunis. He was implicated in all the phases of the study “Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices of high risk groups regarding influenza vaccine uptake in Tunisia 2018-2019”.

Speaker Publications:

1. Bettaieb J, Cherif I, kharroubi G and Mrabet A. Attitudes towards plagiarism among academics of the faculty of Medicine of Tunis. *Accountability in Research*. 2020.
2. Bettaieb J, Toumi A, Leffondre K, Chlif S and Salah AB. High temperature effect on daily all-cause mortality in Tunisia 2005–2007. *Revue d'epidemiologie et de sante publique*. 2020;68(1):37-43.
3. Yazidi R, Aissi W, Bouguerra H, Nouira M, Kharroubi G, Maazaoui L, et al. Evaluation of the influenza-like illness surveillance system in Tunisia, 2012–2015. *BMC public health*. 2019;19(1):694.
4. Bouguerra H, Boutouria E, Zorruga M, Cherif A, Yazidi R, Abdeddaiem N, et al. Applying the moving epidemic method to determine influenza epidemic and intensity thresholds using influenza-like illness surveillance data 2009-2018 in Tunisia. *Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses*. 2020.

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