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Hepatitis E virus: Epidemiology, diagnosis, clinical manifestations, and treatment

Abdullah Tarik Aslan, Hatice Yasemin Balaban

Abstract

The hepatitis E virus (HEV) is the fifth known form of viral hepatitis and was first recognized as the cause of an epidemic of unexplained acute hepatitis in the early 1980s. Globally, it is one of the most frequent causes of acute viral hepatitis. The majority of HEV infections are asymptomatic and lead to the spontaneous clearance of the virus. Among the eight different genotypes identified to date, HEV genotype 1 (HEV1), HEV2, HEV3, and HEV4 are the most frequent genotypes causing infections in humans. HEV1

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Transmission

Symptoms

Diagnosis



Hepatitis E infection is found worldwide. Two different patterns are observed, where hepatitis E is found in: 1. resource-poor areas with frequent water contamination; and 2. areas with safe drinking water supplies. The disease is common in low- and middle-income countries with limited access to essential water, sanitation, hygiene and health services. In these areas, the disease occurs both as outbreaks and as sporadic cases. The outbreaks usually follow periods of fecal contamination of dri...

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Hepatitis E is an illness of the liver caused by hepatitis E virus (HEV), a virus which can infect both animals and humans. HEV infection usually produces a mild disease, hepatitis E. However, disease symptoms can vary from no apparent symptoms to liver failure. In rare cases, it can prove fatal particularly in pregnant women. Normally, the virus infection will clear by itself. However, it has been shown that in individuals with suppressed immune systems, the virus can result in a persistent infectio...

Hepatitis E

Hepatitis E is inflammation of the liver caused by infection with the hepatitis E virus; it is a type of viral hepatitis. Hepatitis E has mainly a fecal-oral transmission route that is similar to hepatitis A, but the viruses are unrelated. In retrospect, the earliest known epidemic of hepatitis E occurred in 1955 in New Delhi, but the virus was not isolated until 1983, by Russian scientists investigating an outbreak in Afghanistan. One of five known human hepatitis viruses: hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E, HEV is a positive-sense, single-stranded, nonenveloped, RNA icosahedral virus.



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