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Reviewed by 00503260

The authors reported incidence and prevalence of hepatitis B and hepatitis C in hemodialysis patients in Lebanon. This manuscript is important to comprehend the actual state of hepatitis B and hepatitis C in hemodialysis patients in Lebanon. However, some concerns are raised. (1) The authors reported that the prevalence of anti-HCV antibodies in ESRD patients undergoing hemodialysis in Lebanon is 4.7%. However, the prevalence in the previous report ranged from 13 % to 27 %. The authors explained that the time when the previous studies were performed is different from that of this study, and that the number of the recruited hemodialysis center is also different between previous and present studies. I understand the possibilities that the authors pointed out. However, there is a whole wide spread. The authors should indicate other possibilities if possible. (2) In general, seroconversion is used as transformation from antigen-positivity to antibody-positivity for HBV. The authors should explain "hepatitis C seroconversion" adequately

Dear Sir,

Thank for your value comment and suggestion

Concerning the first point raised about the difference between the actual prevalence (2014) and the studies done in the past during the nineties of the past century, We should know that since early 2000 there is a rigorous control and application of international standard of infection control in all hemodialysis center by the ministry of public health which could explain this difference in the prevalence between the old non representative studies and this new study also it can explain the actual low incidence .

Concerning the second point we can replace the word of seroconversion by newly acquired infection

Sincerely,

About Rached Antoine, MD, MBAIP