

Liver Function Abnormalities And Its Prognostic Significance In Malaria A Case Study

Anoosha G¹, Dube Shailesh P², E.J. Harisha³

Department of Medicine, J.J.M .Medical College, Davangere.

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Abstract

Background:

Malaria still continues to be a major killer of mankind especially in developing countries. World-wide prevalence of malaria is about 300 to 500 million per annum¹. The clinical pattern of malaria has changed worldwide including India in the last decade. In the recent studies it has been shown that degree of hepatic damage depends upon the species of malaria, the severity of infection². The most serious effect results from infection with plasmodium falciparum, there are reports of vivax malaria presenting with severe symptoms. Many cases of hepatitis and conjugated hyperbilirubinemia in malaria is observed^{3,4}.

Aim:

To study the liver function abnormalities in malaria and to assess the prognosis in relation to severity of liver involvement.

Methods:

100 patients of malaria confirmed by peripheral smear or rapid spot were included in study. All the cases were subjected to blood liver function test. This was followed by monitoring of outcome of patients with respect to morbidity and mortality.

Results:

Out of 100 patients 35% were suffering from falciparum malaria, 55% vivax malaria and 10% mixed infection. 42% of patients presented with thrombocytopenia. 34 had conjugated bilirubinaemia and 17 had cholestatic jaundice. ALT was raised in 34% of patients and AST in 37% of patients. PT was prolonged in 38% of patients. 6 patients in study expired.

Conclusion:

Thrombocytopenia is very common in malaria but spontaneous bleeding is rare. PT was prolonged in

few cases but didn't result in spontaneous bleeding. Malarial hepatitis occurs at significantly higher rate and seen in both vivax and falciparum. Severe manifestation in vivax malaria appears to occur like falciparum malaria. Presence of jaundice has poor prognosis in malaria.

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Correspondence:

Anoosha G

Department of Medicine,
 J.J.M .Medical College,
 Davangere.

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