

HCV RNA PCR test results between 2008 and 2013 in national hepatitis /HIV reference laboratory Turkey/Ankara

C. Oztug Onal¹ and K. Tulay Yalcinkaya²

¹4th Tuberculosis Dispensary, Ankara/Turkey

²National HIV/Hepatitis Reference Laboratory, Ankara/Turkey

Hepatitis C Virus infection is one of the most common bloodborne diseases all over the world. It is thought that about 130-210 million people have chronic HCV infection throughout the world. HCV prevalence varies with geographical regions. While it varies between %0.4-3 in Western Europe, this percentage changes between %9-50 in Egypt. In Turkey, the rate of HCV seropositivity is between % 0.5-1.8. Turkey is among the countries whose prevalence is between %1-1.9. The most common genotype in Turkey is 1b. When prevalence is evaluated according to age, it can be seen that anti-HCV positivity increases markedly between the ages of 30-50. %50-90 of acute HCV infection cases is asymptomatic. In 50-90% of the cases, spontaneous eradication may not be successful depending on route of transmission, the presence of symptomatic hepatitis and the age of first appearance of infection.

Annual incidence of acute HCV infection increased to 1/100 000, but this figure is lower than actual rates due to asymptomatic infections.

The aim of the present study was to evaluate 4058 samples submitted to HCV RNA PCR investigation in Turkey National HIV/Hepatitis Reference Laboratory between 2008-2013. In addition, the results of the samples submitted to genotyping were also shown.

Results: HCV RNA PCR results were found to be positive in 1172 samples and negative in 2886 samples. Of the patients with HCV infection, %47 was male and , %53 female. Mean age is 49,6 . In samples submitted to genotyping, the most frequent genotype is 1b. These results are found to be consistent with those of previous studies in Turkey.

Biography

C. Oztug Onal graduated from Gazi University Medical Faculty and completed his Ph.D at the age of 33 years from Department of Immunology at the same university. He worked at the Refik Saydam National Health Agency for 8 years. From 2012 to present he is working at 4th Tuberculosis Dispensary/Ankara.

oztug26@yahoo.com