

BODY OF REPORT

SEATO Medic Study No. 92                      Studies on the Pathology of Liver Diseases in Thailand. The Character of Viral Hepatitis in Thailand.

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S. E. Asia

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    Division of Medical Research Laboratories

    Department of Geographic Pathology

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Objectives: The objective of this study is to define by a morphological study of liver biopsies with clinical biochemical correlations, the character of viral hepatitis as seen in this population. The occurrence of hepatitis in patients with certain abnormal genetic components prevalent in this geographical area (e.g. abnormal hemoglobin disease, G6PD deficiency of red cells ) will be assessed and

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the deviation of the morphological expression in these cases, from the expected pattern, if any, will be emphasized.

Description: To accomplish this study, a registry of liver pathology is established in the Department of Pathology, Siriraj Hospital Medical College. Liver biopsies were obtained from patients who have had a clinical diagnosis of hepatitis at Siriraj Hospital or Vajira Hospital. After the biopsies were submitted with appropriate blood or serum for laboratory studies, cases were traced back to the ward and history and clinical information were recorded in special protocols by the research fellow and assistant. The clinical diagnosis of hepatitis was made in a broader sense by clinicians. Attempts are made to exclude other infectious diseases common in this geographical area which may simulate viral hepatitis, by appropriate screening laboratory procedures. These are leptospirosis, malaria, rickettsial infection and infectious mononucleosis.

During the period covered by the annual report to the end of March 1965, 110 cases of hepatitis of all forms were collected from the two hospitals. The breakdown of diagnosis in the first 98 cases is as follows:

Classical viral hepatitis (acute and subsiding)	52
Cholestatic hepatitis	11
Pericholangitis	12
Persistent hepatitis	6
Hepatitis, exact type undetermined	15
Fulminating hepatitis	2
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TOTAL	98

The diagnosis of cholestatic hepatitis is made on the biopsy which reveals an overall histologic picture similar to the classical case of viral hepatitis but exhibits features of cholestasis with occasional pseudoglandular transformation of the liver cells. The group of pericholangitis consists of the cases which show more severe inflammation of the portal triads, and cholestasis but less unrest and necrosis of the parenchymal cells. Whether there is a justification to break these two groups away from the "classical viral hepatitis" or not remains to be seen after the detailed histopathologic analysis is completed.

The frequency of abnormal gene carriers in hepatitis patients: The frequency of G6PD deficiency of red blood cells and abnormal hemoglobinopathies encountered in hepatitis cases (including all forms) are shown as follows:

	G6PD deficiency	Abnormal hemoglobin
Number of cases tested	61	61
Number of cases with	7	6
Number of cases not tested	30	31

The types of gene carriers for hemoglobin E are 5 heterozygous E, and one homozygous E.

The significance of these figures will be worked out statistically in comparison with the known frequencies of each abnormal gene in the general population as well as in the hospital population. The morphological express of hepatitis in these cases is to be evaluated and compared with the findings in patients who are not gene carriers to see if any difference exists.

The collection of the material for this study is now concluded, follow up of certain cases is still being carried on and the histopathologic analysis is being made. Conclusion is not available at this time.