

## The Prevalence of Hepatitis B Virus Markers in Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever Patients

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OBJECTIVE : To study the prevalence of hepatitis B surface antigen (HB<sub>s</sub> Ag) carriers among patients with dengue hemorrhagic fever.

BACKGROUND : Hepatitis B virus can cause a chronic viral infection. The question has been asked whether the presence of a chronic viral infection interferes with infections by other viral agents. As studies were ongoing on dengue infected children, this question was examined by screening hospitalized dengue patients for HB<sub>s</sub> Ag assays.

MATERIAL & METHODS : Patients with serologically confirmed dengue infections were selected for the study. Convalescent sera were tested for HB Ag by radio-immune assays. (AUSRIA II, Abbott Laboratory, North Chicago, Ill.)

RESULTS : There were 70 patients selected between age one and 14 years of age (Table 1). The prevalence of HB Ag in this group was 5.7%. This was not significantly different from the mean<sup>s</sup> prevalence for HB Ag found in the urban Thai population (1). There was no apparent relationship<sup>s</sup> between hepatitis B virus carriers and hospitalized dengue patients indicating that interference between these two viruses does not occur. Further investigations are not considered necessary.

### REFERENCE :

1. Grossman, R.A., Benenson, M.W., Scott, R.M., Snitbhan, R., Top, F.H., Jr., and Pantunwatana, S., 1975. An Epidemiological Study of Hepatitis B Virus in Bangkok, Thailand. Am. J. of Epidemiology. 101:144-154.

Table 1. Prevalence of HB<sub>s</sub>Ag in Patients with Dengue Infection

Age (Year)	Male			Female			Total		
	No. Tested	HB <sub>s</sub> Ag (+)		No. Tested	HB <sub>s</sub> Ag (+)		No. Tested	HB <sub>s</sub> Ag (+)	
		No.	(%)		No.	(%)		No.	(%)
1-4	7	0	(0)	3	0	(0)	10	0	(0)
5-9	18	1	(5.5)	19	2	(10.5)	37	3	(8.1)
10-14	14	1	(7.1)	9	0	(0)	23	1	(4.3)
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>(5.1)</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>(6.6)</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>(5.7)</b>