

Dermatologic Manifestations of Chronic Hepatitis C

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ABSTRACT

Background: There are many skin changes are associated with Hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection which are often asymptomatic. Like others extra hepatic manifestations, skin changes are often seen in chronic Hepatitis C Virus.

Aim: To assess the dermatology appearance of Chronic Hepatitis C Virus infection.

Methodology: This study was conducted in the Ibne Sienna Hospital Multan from March 2017 to Sept2017.

Results: Patients ages were 42±14 years (range 20-72). 55(60%) patients had complications. The main mode of transmission seen as due to previous surgery (14%) followed by dental procedures (31%). The undetermined cause was found 31%. Frequency of Skin manifestations in the study population, [39 patients out of 90] was found pruritis (12%), followed by Oral Lichen planus (9%), Leukocytoclastic Vasculitis (6%), Raynaud's Phenomenon (6%), Chronic Urticaria (4%), Porphyria cutanea Tarda (1%), vitiligo (1%). Patients having complications were more likely to have dermatologic manifestations: Child-Pugh A/No Cirrhosis was found 10 (28.5%) and Child-Pugh B/C 2 was found 29(52.7)

Conclusion: Relatively higher percentage of patients having dermatologic manifestations than in other studies) because of higher number of patients had skin changes were 60% of total patients have advanced liver disease

Keywords: Chronic Hepatitis C, enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay

INTRODUCTION

The study was conducted to assess the dermatology manifestation of hepatitis C virus infection (HCV). There are many skin changes are associated with Hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection which are often asymptomatic¹⁻⁸. Like others extra hepatic manifestations, skin changes are often seen in chronic Hepatitis C Virus infection. The skin diseases often linked with HCV include cutaneous vasculitis², porphyria cutaneatarda and oral lichen planus⁴, but other skin disorders, such as pruritis, urticaria, Raynaud's phenomenon, may also be related to HCV³.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Ninety consecutive patients [irrespective of their disease stage and Hepatitis c treatment status] with chronic HCV infection (52 males, 38 females) followed up at the medical OPD of Ibn-e-Sina Hospital were recruited into the study. None of the patients underwent a liver biopsy. They were questioned for alcohol or drug abuse, a previous blood transfusion, surgery and hepatitis. By appropriate clinical and laboratory data, Child-Pugh score was calculated. Demographic data concerning the patients included in the study were noted and a careful examination of skin, oral mucosa, hair and nails was performed.

RESULTS

Patients ages were 42 ± 14 years (range 20-72). 55(60 %) patients had complications.

Table of Mode of Transmission

Previous Surgery	14
Dental Procedure	16
blood transfusions	7
Suspected shared razors	10
Hemodialysis	6
Tattooing	3
Unhygienic Ear/nose piercing	3
Undetermined	31

Frequency of Skin manifestations in the study population...[39 patients out of 90]

Pruritis	12
Leukocytoclastic Vasculitis	6
Raynaud's Phenomenon	6
Oral Lichen planus	9
Chronic Urticaria	4
Vitiligo	1
Porphyria cutanea Tarda	1

Patients having dermatologic manifestations.

Liver Disease Stage	No of patients under study	Number of patients with skin manifestations(% of respective Liver Disease Stage)
Child-Pugh A/No Cirrhosis	35	10 (28.5%)
Child-Pugh B/C	55	29 (52.7%)



CHRONIC LIVER DISEASES

- o Clubbing
- o Longitudinal ridging
- o Thickening
- o Brittleness
- o Total leuconychia
- o terry's nails
- o (whitening of the entire nail plate except for a narrow pink band distally)
- o Muehrcke's nails (multiple parallel transverse white bands)

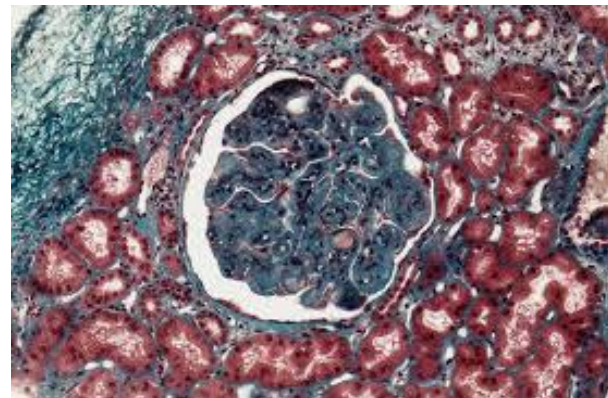
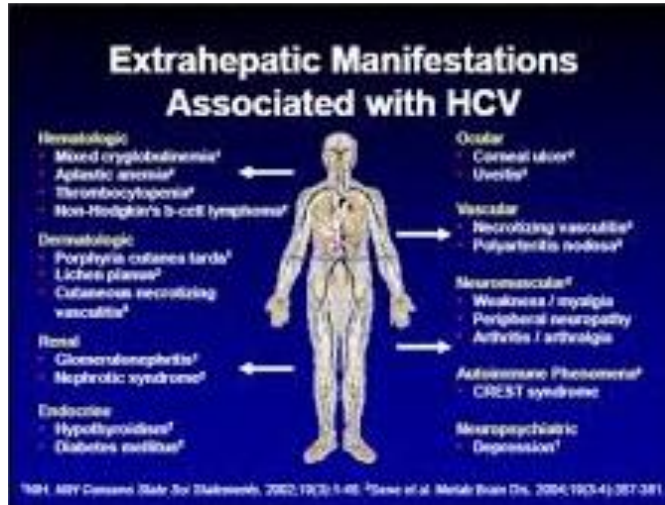


Terry's nails



Muehrcke's nails





CONCLUSIONS

Relatively higher percentage of patients having dermatologic manifestations than in other studies (9, 10)
Because of

- a) Higher number of patients had skin changes were 60% of total patients have advanced liver disease
- b) inclusion of pruritus and chronic urticaria in the skin manifestations which otherwise have higher prevalence in patients with chronic diseases.

DrawBacks of Study: Cryoglobulin levels were not measured which is thought to be one of the basic mechanisms leading to the development of dermatologic manifestations⁸.

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