

LETTER TO EDITOR

SEROPREVALENCE OF DENGUE IN BIHAR: A HOSPITAL BASED STUDY

Babita¹, Anima Xess², Namrata Kumari³, Shivendra Kumar Shahi⁴, Sanjeev Suman⁵.

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Dengue/ Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF) is an emergent disease in India. It is endemic in some parts of country and contributes annual outbreaks of dengue.^[1] It is a vector borne disease transmitted mainly by *Aedes aegypti* mosquito. This study was done in a hospital, Patna on 123 patients who were admitted with symptoms of Fever, Myalgia, Headache, Retro orbital pain, Bleeding, Body pain, Vomiting, Pain abdomen during the period of September 2010 to January 2011. They were tested by dengue NSI Ag and Ab combe card method. Out of 123 patients 34 (28%) were positive for dengue. Thirteen (38%) were reactive for Antigen. Five (14.7%) were reactive only for IgM antibody and 8 (23.5%) were reactive only of IgG antibody. But 21 (62%) were reactive for both IgG and IgM antibody. The platelet count varied from 34,000 to 2.8 lakh per cumm (Mean 85,000/cumm). The epidemic affected males and females at ratio of 2:1. Majority of the patients (65.04%) were found belonging to the age group more than 25 years. Maximum numbers of patients were admitted during September and November having 28.4% positive cases. In our study 20.5% required platelet transfusion. Another study showed 11% IgM, 51% IgG and 38% both IgM and IgG antibody positivity.^[2] In West Bengal 6293 persons were serologically diagnosed to be suffering from dengue which occurred during the month of August to November 2005.^[3] Bihar was said to be free from dengue but in September 2010, outbreaks have been reported specially from three districts Patna, Munger and Begusarai. Cases reported from Patna were mostly due to migration from different areas in order to get better treatment facilities.^[4] In Kolkata alone , 14 deaths and 27 deaths in West Bengal occurred due to dengue and dengue haemorrhagic fever.^[3] So in future Dengue virus infection has to be taken seriously in Bihar and proper measures should be taken for the prevention of the infection

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AUTHORS:

1. Babita
2. Anima Xess
3. Namrata Kumari
4. Shivendra Kumar Shahi
5. Sanjeev Suman

PARTICULARS OF CONTRIBUTORS:

1. Tutor, Department of Microbiology, PMCH.
2. Professor, Department of Microbiology, Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences.
3. Associate Professor, department of microbiology, Indira Gandhi institute of medical sciences.
4. Professor, Department of Microbiology, Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences.
5. Senior Resident Department of Radiology, PMCH.

NAME ADDRESS EMAIL ID OF THE CORRESPONDING AUTHOR:

Dr. Babita,
Patna Medical College,
Patna.
Email- drbabitasmn@gmail.com

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