

Fluke Related Hepatitis: A Forgotten Tropical Hepatitis

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EDITORIAL

Hepatitis is an important hepatic problem that is the present public health globally. There are several etiologies of hepatitis including to toxic substances and pathogens. Regarding pathogens, several hepatitis viruses are well-known. The viral hepatitis becomes important focused medical problem in several countries around the world. Nevertheless, the other kinds of pathogens might also cause hepatitis but it is usually not mentioned in the literature. Here, the specific discussion of the little mentioned group of hepatitis, fluke related hepatitis, is made in the editorial article.

In tropical medicine, intestinal helminth infection is an important problem. The problem is common in several developing tropical countries around the world. The fluke is a specific group of tropical helminthic infection. The examples of important fluke infections are schistosomiasis and opisthorchiasis. The fluke related hepatitis is an important condition that should be mentioned. Several kinds of fluke infections are reported for the interrelationship with hepatitis. Regarding opisthorchiasis or liver fluke infection, it is known that the chronic opisthorchiasis is an important factor inducing carcinogenesis. The concurrent infection between opisthorchiasis and hepatitis B is observable but there is no specific clinical note on the corrence [1]. The opisthorchiasis is proven to induced cholestasis rather than hepatitis [2]. Nevertheless, cholangiohepatitis is still observable in cases with chronic opisthorchiasis [3]. Regarding schistosomiasis, the co-infections with hepatitis B or hepatitis C is reported in the literature [4]. It was observed that the abnormal liver function in viral

hepatitis infection remained unaffected by coinfection with schistosomiasis [5]. The schistoomiasis usually result in hepatitis protein synthesis dysfunction rather than hepatitis [6].

In conclusion, it can be seen that there are few reports regarding the fluke related hepatitis. It can assume that fluke infection, especially opisthorchiasis, might induce hepatitis. The important consideration is usually on the concurrent infection between fluke and viral hepatitis. The issue on fluke-related hepatitis is an interesting issue for further research in tropical medicine and gastroenterology.

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