

## Seroprevalence of hepatitis E virus in blood donors in Khuzestan Province, Southwest Iran

Assarehzadegan, M.A.<sup>a</sup>, Shakerinejad, G.<sup>b</sup>, Amini, A.<sup>b</sup>, Rezaee, S.A.R.<sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Immunology, Faculty of Medicine, Ahwaz Joundishapur University of Medical Sciences, Ahwaz, Iran

<sup>b</sup> Jihad Daneshgahi Medical Center, Ahwaz, Iran

<sup>c</sup> Microbiology Department, Virology Division, Mashhad University of Medical Sciences, Mashhad, Iran

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### Abstract

**Objective:** To determine the seroprevalence of hepatitis E virus (HEV) infection among volunteer blood donors in Khuzestan Province, Iran. Khuzestan is a war stricken area in the southwest of Iran, which shares a land, river, and sea border with Iraq. This region has suffered the heaviest public health system damage of all the Iranian provinces during a 20-year period of war and conflict. **Methods:** A cross-sectional study was carried out among 500 urban volunteer blood donors of the regional blood banks, from May to December 2000. Serum samples from healthy blood donors were tested for IgG anti-HEV antibody using a specific enzyme linked immunoassay (ELISA) kit. **Results:** The prevalence of HEV infection was found to be 11.0% (11/100). All patients were negative for anti-HIV, anti-HBV, and anti-HCV antibodies. The data indicate that 45.6% (5/11) of HEV positive subjects were male, compared to 0.7% (1/14) of females; this difference is statistically significant (risk ratio = 2.6,  $p < 0.008$ ). **Conclusions:** These findings demonstrate the high prevalence rate of anti-HEV among blood donors, particularly males. © 2007 International Society for Infectious Diseases.

### Reaxys Database Information

### Author keywords

Blood donor; Hepatitis E virus; Iran; Khuzestan; Seroprevalence

### Indexed Keywords

**EMTREE drug terms:** hepatitis E antibody; immunoglobulin G antibody

**EMTREE medical terms:** adult; age distribution; article; blood bank; blood donor; cross-sectional study; enzyme linked immunosorbent assay; female; hepatitis E; Hepatitis E virus; human; Iran; major clinical study; male; seroprevalence; sex ratio; statistical analysis; volunteer; war

**MeSH:** Adolescent; Adult; Blood Donors; Cross-Sectional Studies; Female; Hepatitis E; Humans; Iran; Male; Middle Aged; Seroepidemiologic Studies; Serologic Tests; Sex Distribution

*Medline is the source for the MeSH terms of this document.*

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