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Molecular Epidemiology of Hepatitis Delta and Hepatitis B Viruses Circulating In Two Major Provinces (East and North-West) of Pakistan

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ABSTRACT

Objectives

HBV and HDV are major public health problems with millions affected globally and Pakistan accounts for a significant proportion of the global Hepatitis burden. This cross sectional study was designed to assess the general epidemiological and virological features of HBV and HDV in the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) provinces of Pakistan.

Methods

A total of 1890 HBV patients from March 2016 to May 2017 were recruited in the study and the presence of HDV was retrospectively evaluated in all participants. Most participants were young adults (from 21-30 years). Genotyping was based on PCR amplification using primers specific

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