Hepatitis A in Children- Clinical Course, Complications and Laboratory Profile: Authors' Reply

K. Jagadish Kumar • V. G. Manjunath • C. Anitha

Received: 1 February 2014 / Accepted: 5 March 2014 / Published online: 23 March 2014
© Dr. K C Chaudhuri Foundation 2014

To the Editor: We are humbled and thankful to the authors for their kind perusal of our article [1]. We also accept their valid comments regarding Hepatitis A vaccination. Our study mainly focused on the varying clinical course and complications with parallel laboratory profile of Hepatitis A in children. We did not aim at dealing with the aspects of Hepatitis A vaccination, its efficacy and effectiveness. We undoubtedly are aware of the importance of vaccination, especially its role in the developing countries, where the incidence of Hepatitis A is 150 per 100,000 per year [1]. In a study done in Israel, the implementation of the Hepatitis A vaccine led to a drastic decrease in the incidence of Hepatitis A infection. The incidence of Hepatitis A decreased from 239.4 per 100,000 in 1998 to 2.2 per 100,000 in 2007 in children below 5 y and from 310.3 per 100,000 to 3 per 100,000 in children between 5 and 14 y of age [2]. Indian Academy of Pediatrics has also been recommending Hepatitis A vaccine for children [3]. We do accept that in addition to health education, improved sanitation and food safety, the universal Hepatitis A

immunization programme is also one of the most important strategies to reduce Hepatitis A virus infection and related complications.

Conflict of Interest None.

Role of Funding Source None.

References

1. Kumar KJ, Kumar HCK, Manjunath VG, Anitha C, Mamatha S. Hepatitis A in children- clinical course, complications and laboratory profile. Indian J Pediatr. 2014;81:15–9.
2. Chodick G, Heymann AD, Ashkenazi S, Kokia E, Shalev V. Long-term trends in hepatitis A incidence following the inclusion of Hepatitis A vaccine in the routine nationwide immunization program. J Viral Hepat. 2008;15:62–5.
3. Indian Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Immunization (IAPCOI). Consensus recommendations on immunization and IAP immunization timetable 2012. Indian Pediatr. 2012;49:549–63.

K. Jagadish Kumar • V. G. Manjunath • C. Anitha
Department of Pediatrics, JSS Medical College, JSS University,
Mysore, Karnataka, India

K. Jagadish Kumar (✉)
85/B, 9th Cross, Navilu Road, Kuvempu Nagar, Mysore,
Karnataka, India
e-mail: jagdishmandya@gmail.com