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Ibrahim Abdullah[1] and Amer Goreal[2]

[1]Medical Laboratory Technology Department, College of Health and Medical Techniques – Shekhan, Duhok Polytechnic University, Duhok, Iraq. [2]Department Medical Microbiology, College of Medicine, University of Duhok, Duhok, Iraq. (Correspondence to: Amer Goreal: amer.goreal@uod.ac).

Abstract

Background: Hepatitis A virus infection is widespread in Iraq, therefore, assessing its seroprevalence is important for infection control at the community level.

Aims: To determine hepatitis A virus seroprevalence in a representative sample in Duhok Governorate, northern Iraq; evaluate changes in the epidemiological pattern; and assess factors associated with its seropositivity.

Methods: This cross-sectional study was conducted from July 2020 to November 2021. Random cluster sampling was used to select participants aged 5–74 years. Hepatitis A virus immunoglobulin G (IgG) was determined among the participants and demographic data were collected on sex, residency (urban or rural), age, history of jaundice, number of family members (≤ five or > five), and sources of drinking water.

Results: A total of 1052 participants (625 males and 427 females) were enrolled. The overall seroprevalence of hepatitis A virus IgG was 68.3%: 24.4% in ages 5–10 years; 38.3% in ages 11–15; 86.9% in ages 16–20; 85.4% in ages 21–30; 95.3% in ages 31–40; and 89.2% in ages > 40 years. Factors significantly associated with hepatitis A virus IgG positivity were rural residence, male sex and family size greater than five (all P