

Health-related disruptions due to COVID-19 pandemic in patients chronically infected with hepatitis B virus (HBV).

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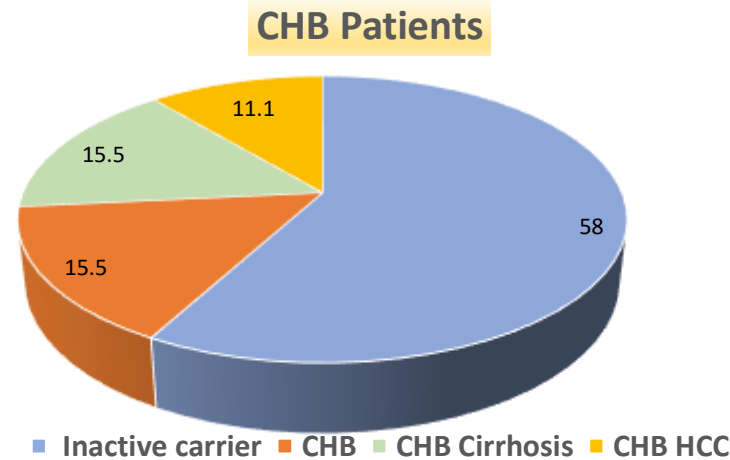
BACKGROUND AND AIM

Ongoing COVID-19 pandemic have impacted the health care of patients with pre-existing chronic liver disease. The aim of the present study was to assess the health-related disruptions due to COVID-19 pandemic in patients with chronic HBV infection.

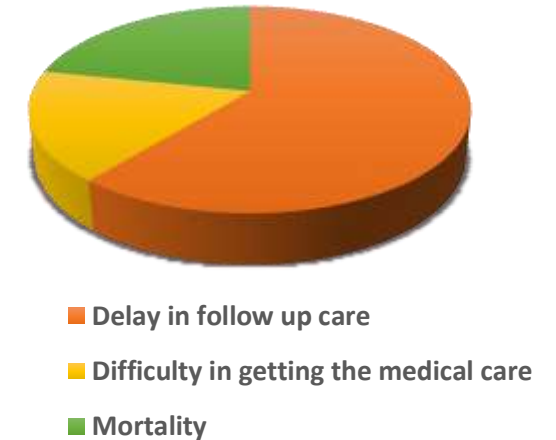
METHODS

- CHB patients enrolled from November 2019 to June 2021
- Patient contacted telephonically for SARS-COV2 infection
- Characteristics of COVID-19 disease and liver disease for those who had been infected and health related disruptions in all HBV patients irrespective of SARS COV2 infection were analyzed.
- Overall, a health score (1 being worst, 10 being best) was compared in all patients during the pandemic and if there was no pandemic.

RESULTS



Health-related disruptions



- In total 7(15.5%) of 45 patients had COVID-19 disease confirmed with RT-PCR; 1(2.2%) required hospitalization for severe COVID 19 disease. There was no COVID-19 related mortality.
- Health related disruptions in liver disease due to on-going pandemic were reported in 18 (40%) patients; predominant being delay in follow-up care in 14 (31.1%); difficulty in getting the medical care in 4 (8.8%) and mortality in 5 (11.1%) patients (2- HCC, 3- cirrhosis).
- Mean health score during the pandemic was 8.1 ± 2.3 in comparison to 9.5 ± 1.1 , $p=0.0006$, if there was no pandemic.

CONCLUSION

COVID-19 pandemic significantly caused health related disruptions in patients chronically infected with HBV.