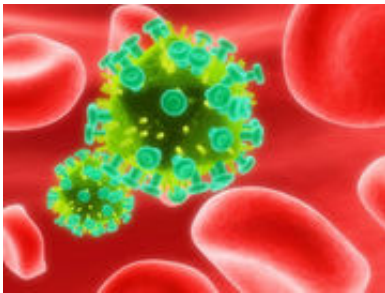


Hepatitis E virus rare among HIV-infected population

December 14 2015



(HealthDay)—The prevalence of hepatitis E virus (HEV) is low in HIV-infected (HIV+) women and men, according to a study published online Dec. 8 in *Hepatology*.

Mark H. Kuniholm, Ph.D., from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in Bronx, N.Y., and colleagues tested 2,919 plasma samples collected from HIV+ women and men enrolled in U.S. cohort studies for HEV viremia. Real-time [polymerase chain reaction](#) was used to confirm positive samples identified using a high-throughput nucleic acid testing platform.

The researchers found that HEV viremia prevalence was three in 2,606 tested plasma samples collected from HIV+ women and zero in 313 tested [plasma samples](#) collected from HIV+ [men](#). The HEV isolates were

all genotype 3a. One woman had chronic HEV infection for more than four years and two had acute HEV detectable at a single study visit in follow-up testing of stored samples.

"To our knowledge this is the first reported case of chronic HEV infection in an HIV+ U.S. individual," the authors write. "We also confirm that chronic HEV infection can persist despite a CD4+ count >200 cells/mm³. These data suggest that HEV [infection](#) is rare in the HIV+ U.S. population."

Two authors are employees of Hologic, which developed the Procleix HEV assay in partnership with Grifols Diagnostic Solutions.

More information: [Abstract](#)
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Citation: Hepatitis E virus rare among HIV-infected population (2015, December 14) retrieved 21 November 2023 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2015-12-hepatitis-virus-rare-hiv-infected-population.html>

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