

This number may be significantly lower if all had had HEV IgM checked.

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#### REVIEW OF HOSPITAL PATIENTS WITH ALT>1000 IU/L

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**Introduction** There are many potential causes for an ALT>1000 IU/L, the commonest being ischaemia, drug induced liver injury (DILI) and viral hepatitis. There are however many other potential causes, and, more recently, acute endemic hepatitis E (HEV) has been identified in some of these patients.

**Aims/Background** Our aim was to establish the causes of ALT>1000 IU/L in patients in a large teaching hospital. We also wanted to determine the number of patients in whom a cause was not found, and how many of these had been checked for HEV.

**Method** All ALT values over a two-year period (2010/11) were examined. Those with an ALT>1000 IU/L were identified and their investigations/notes reviewed. All data was anonymised and recorded in a dedicated electronic database.

**Results** 182 patients (57% male and 43% female) with an ALT>1000 IU/L were identified. The mean age for males versus females was 47+/-18 years versus 62+/-18 years ( $p=0.001$ ). The most common causes of an ALT>1000 IU/L were ischaemic hepatitis, ( $n=111$ , (61%)), DILI, ( $n=30$ , (16.5%)) and viral hepatitis, ( $n=22$ , (12.1%)). The remaining causes included choledocholithiasis ( $n=8$ ) and autoimmune hepatitis ( $n=3$ ). No cause was identified for 8 patients. Of these, none had HEV IgM checked. 35.7% ( $n=65$ ) died during this admission, 54.9% ( $n=100$ ) were discharged home and 9.3% (17) were not admitted.

**Conclusion** This review confirms that ischaemic liver injury is the commonest cause of ALT>1000 IU/L in hospital inpatients. Ischaemia, DILI and viral hepatitis account for almost 90% of presentations. Only 5% of patients had no aetiology identified.