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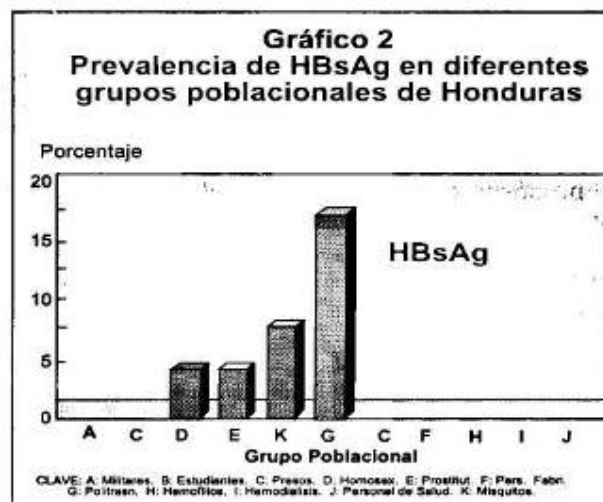
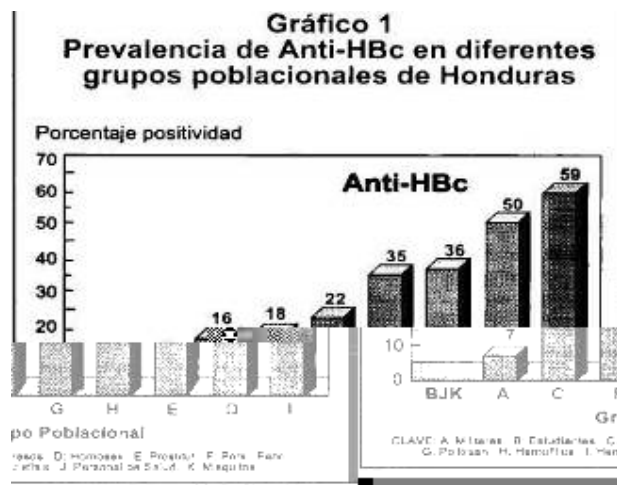
de salud pública sobre la necesidad de tamizar el resto de la población en el territorio nacional y sobre la disposición de recursos para el planeamiento de medidas de salud pública de manera que se logre minimizar el riesgo de transmisión por medio de campañas educativas y preventivas.

SUMMARY. Viral Hepatitis is considered a main cause of morbidity and mortality world wide. With the development of new serological test has become possible to determine more precisely the prevalence rate as well the carrier rate of these viral infections. To help determine the prevalence of Hepatitis B virus (HBV) and Hepatitis C (HCV) among selected population groups; investigators studied 1041 serum samples from the groups mentioned above, at the Department of Microbiology, UNAH, Tegucigalpa, Honduras, during the second half of 1994.

Seroreactivity for Hepatitis B surface Antigen (HBsAg), Antibodies against Hepatitis B core antigen (anti-HBc) and Antibodies against Hepatitis C virus (Anti-HCV) was determined by serological screening with a commercial enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) according with the instructions of the manufacture (Ortho Diagnostic). For analysis purposes we divided the groups in two big groups; Group I with no risk and Group II with risk. Knowing that HBV occurs with greater frequency among adults whose occupations, lifestyles or behaviors (particularly homosexual or promiscuous sexual activities) place them at increase risk of contracting the infection. The overall prevalence of Hepatitis B in general population (group I) was 9%, whereas a prevalence of 38% was observed in group II. A low carrier rate of HBsAg was observed in group I (0%), while group II showed a positivity ranging between 4-17%. These findings indicates that HBV infection in general population should be considered as low prevalence according to the World Health Organization (WHO) criteria. The prevalence of Anti-HCV was significantly higher in group II (5%) compared to what is reported by National Red Cross in blood donors (0.07% in 1994). Even though Hepatitis C seems uncommon in general population there are groups with a considerable risk to contract HBV and HCV, where infection is facilitated by parental or sexual exposition. We believed this study has made a relevant contribution to actual information about

the prevalence of HBV and HCV in the Metropolitan area of Honduras. Dissemination of these findings should help public health authorities about the need to assess the rest of the population along the national territory and to allocate resources for planning public health measures in order to minimize the risk of transmission by educational and preventive means.

INTRODUCCION



CUADRO 1. MARCADORES DE HEPATITIS B Y C EN DIFERENTES GRUPOS POBLACIONALES DE LA REGION METROPOLITANA DE HONDURAS

Población estudiada	# de Muestras	HBsAg	AntiHBc	AntiCV
A. MILITARES	410	0(0)	29(7)	NR
B. ESTUDIANTES	100	0(0)	NR	NR
C. PRESOS	100	0(0)	16(16)	3(3)
D. HOMOSEXUALES	100	4(4)	50(50)	0(0)
E. PROSTITUTAS	50	2(4)	18(36)	2(4)
F. PERSONAL FABRICA	100	0(0)	18(18)	NR
G. POLITRANSFUNDIDOS	46	8(17)	10(22)	3(7)
H. HEMOFILICOS	17	0(0)	6(35)	12(71)
I. HEMODIALISIS	17	0(0)	10(59)	NR
J. PERSONAL DE SALUD	30	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
K. MISQUITOS	77	6(7.8)	0(0)	NR

NR: No Realizado

CUADRO 2. PREVALENCIA DE MARCADORES SEROLOGICOS DE HCV Y HBV EN GRUPOS SIN RIEGO (I) Y DE RIESGO (II)

Marcador	Grupo I		Grupo II		IC 95% O. R.
	No. Inf. (%)	No. Inf. (%)	No. Inf. (%)	No. Inf. (%)	
HBsAg	0(0)	510(100)	14(4)	346(96)	2.76(2.5-3.0)*
Anti-HBc	47(9)	463(90)	128(36)	232(64)	5.44(3.7-8.0)
HBsAg+Anti-HBc	47(9)	463(90)	136(38)	224(62)	5.98(4.0-8.79)
Anti-HCV	NR	NR	17(5)	326(95)	NR

Grupo I: Sin Riesgo n = 510 (Estudiantes, Militares, Personal de Fábrica)

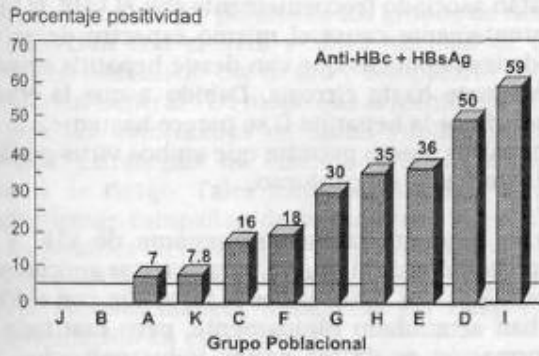
Grupo II: De Riesgo n = 360 (Presidarios, Homosexuales, Prostitutas, Politransfundidos, Hemofílicos, Hemodialis, Personal de Salud)

NR: No realizado

*R.R. Riesgo Relativo

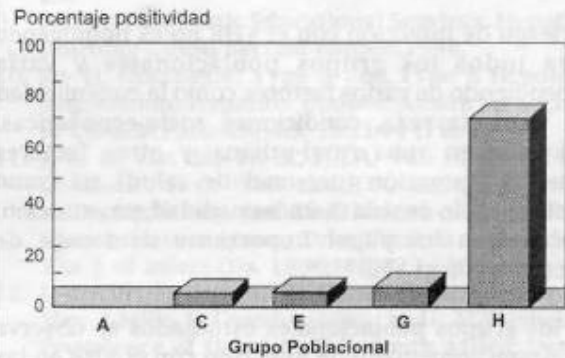
Inf. Número de Infeccionados # No Inf.: Número de No Infeccionados

Gráfico 3
Prevalencia de Marcadores de Hepatitis en diferentes grupos poblacionales de Honduras



CLAVE: A: Militares, B: Estudiantes, C: Presos, D: Homosex., E: Prostitutas, F: Para. Fabr., G: Politrans., H: Hemofílicos, I: Hemodialis, J: Personal de Salud, K: Mosquitos.

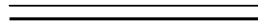
Gráfico 4
Prevalencia de ANTI-HCV en diferentes grupos poblacionales de Honduras



CLAVE: A: Militares, B: Estudiantes, C: Presos, D: Homosex., E: Prostitutas, G: Politransfundidos, H: Hemofílicos.

0%

Agradecimiento: Agradecemos la colaboración de la Compañía ORTHO DIAGNOSTIC por la donación de todos los kits para la realización de este estudio. además se agradece la ayuda técnica de la Lic. Inñeri Andrea Mira y la Técnico en Laboratorio Gloria Salinas. así mismo al Dr. Jeremías Soto por su colaboración en el análisis estadístico.



"Lo mejor que podemos dar a nuestro enemigo es el perdón; a un opositor, tolerancia; a un amigo nuestro calor; a un hijo, un buen ejemplo; al padre deferencia; a la madre, una conducta que la haga orgullosa de su hijo; a ti mismo respeto; a todos los hombres, caridad"

Francis Balfour