



Changing Trends of Liver Diseases in Benin City, A Twenty (1985-2004) Years Comparative Histopathology Study

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Abstract

Aim: The aim of this study is to determine the pattern chronic liver diseases histologically diagnosed in the University of Benin Teaching Hospital between 1985 and 2004 and compare with previous study of histopathological diseases of the liver in a previous study.

Methodology: The surgical daybooks, histopathology request and report forms were the sources of data used for this study. All liver biopsies received at the Department of Pathology, University of Benin Teaching Hospital were included.

Discussion

A total of 235 liver biopsies were received in the Department of Pathology, UBTH in the period under review. The mean age was 41.3 ±16.3 years with age range of 3 months to 87 years. The male to female ratio is 2.8:1. These observations agree with reports from Jos, Brasil and India [4-6]. However lower gender ratios were reported in Lagos, Pakistan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) [7-9]

In our study, the commonest pathological lesions was in ammatory (49.79%), followed by tumours (40.42%). Others were biliary diseases (2.99%), metabolic diseases (2.56%), drugs and chemicals (1.7%), tumour-like conditions (1.29%) and granulomatous lesions (0.85%). Among the in ammatory diseases, viral hepatitis (33.19%) was the commonest histopathologic lesion of the liver in our environment, followed consecutively by hepatic cirrhosis (14.04%), neonatal hepatitis (1.28%), neonatal giant cell hepatitis (0.85%) and fulminant hepatitis (0.43%). These observations were similar to the reports from Jos, Kano, India, Pakistan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait [10-12] [4,6].

In this study, hepatocellular carcinoma was the most prevalent malignant tumor of the liver and constituted 62.1% of all the malignant neoplasm, this was followed by metastatic tumors (27.36%). This is agreed with previous reports [4,8,10]. However, hepatocellular carcinoma was the leading hepatic neoplasm in Lagos and Enugu [13,14,8]. Other studies demonstrated that hepatocellular carcinoma was the 3rd commonest chronic liver disease in KSA and Kuwait [10,12] but very rare in Nottingham, UK where Non-alcoholic steatohepatitis, fatty liver disease and hepatic fibrosis were the leading causes of liver diseases [15]. Other malignancies of liver in this study were hepatoblastoma and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (1.28% respectively). Hepatoblastoma was very rare in this study constituting 0.85%. This observation was similar to reports from Jos, Lagos, Pakistan, KSA and Zaria [5,8,10,11]. Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma accounted for 1.28% in our study. Similarly, Fashir et al [10] reported that 0.44 per cent of liver diseases in KSA were non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Other neoplasm in our study included Cholangiocarcinoma and hemangioendothelioma which constituted 0.85% respectively. Though hemangioendothelioma remained markedly rare in some previous studies [16-18]. However, several reports demonstrated hepatic hemangioendothelioma can occur in both children and adults [19-21]. Moreover, collision tumor, a very rare type of cholangiocarcinoma co-existing with hepatocellular carcinoma was reported by Innocent et al [22] in Jos, Nigeria. Metastatic liver neoplasm contributed 11.06%, this is not surprising as the portal system of veins drains gastrointestinal system and other organs distal to the liver. Most of these secondary tumours were adenocarcinomas (76.9%), followed by Squamous cell carcinoma (11.5%), renal cell carcinoma (7.7%) and malignant mesenchymal tumors (3.8%). These findings were relatively high compared to reports from other parts of Nigeria and beyond. For instance, there was 2.6% and 4.5%, 4.0%, 4.6% and 4.3% of metastatic tumours to the liver in Jos, Ethiopia, Pakistan and KSA respectively [5,9,10,11]. Carvenous hemangioma, polycystic liver disease and congenital fibrosis accounted for 0.43% each.

Biliary tract diseases constituted 2.99% of the liver diseases in our study. Biliary cirrhosis was the leading cause of biliary tract lesions and contributed 2.13%. This observation was twice the incidence of biliary cirrhosis in Jos, North-central Nigeria. However, Shelly et

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