

## Abstract

### **Serological prevalence of hepatitis E antibody among 1-69 years old Ardabil population in 2018**

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**Background and Objective:** Hepatitis E is the fifth recognized human viral hepatitis and likely the most common cause of acute viral hepatitis in the world. Given the absence of any previous study on the prevalence or incidence of hepatitis E in the Ardabil, the serological investigation of HEV antibody in the Ardabil is reasonable and cost-effective. The result of such research could be useful in future health plans in Ardabil to identify situation of viral hepatitis in the population.

**Methods:** The sample size was 700 who were randomly selected from the Ardabil population based on the records of health centers. Subjects were recruited from the Ardabil population aged between 1 and 69 divided equally in 10 years age groups. Each age group has 100 participants with the same number of men and women. They were invited to the Digestive Disorders Research Center and agreed upon the study. Blood samples were collected for serological evaluation of total hepatitis E antibody and a questionnaire was completed.

**Results:** 700 patients were included in this study, 352 (50.3%) were male and 348 (49.7%) were female. The age range was between 1 and 69 years with a mean age of 34.40 years. Serological results of the study showed that 19.30% (135 persons) had positive antibody against hepatitis E. We also found that there was no significant association between this prevalence and gender of the study subjects. In contrast an association between age groups and HEV was observed by increasing age.

**Conclusion:** Seroprevalence of hepatitis E antibody was 19.30% in 1-69 years old in the Ardabil. This finding was not significantly correlated with gender, but it was shown that with increasing age, The infection increased significantly.

**Keywords:** Prevalence, Hepatitis E, Serology, Antibody