

XI ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF PAKISTAN ASSOCIATION OF PATHOLOGISTS

Mian Amjad Sohail and M.A. Khaliq

Department of Pathology, Ayub Medical College, Abbottabad

XI Annual Conference of Pakistan Association of Pathologists (PAP) was held at Ayub Medical College, Abbottabad from 30th September to 2nd October, 1987. Pathologists from all over the country, Asia Pacific Region and UK participated. Following are the excerpts of the papers presented:—

Brig. Iftikhar A. Malik presented a paper on Hepatic infection with Delta Virus. The study was carried out on sera of 1130 adult, young jaundiced patients and healthy volunteers were tested for seromarkers of viral hepatitis by ELISA technique. The serology revealed that 193 individuals had HBsAg, amongst which 55.5% were carriers of HBsAg and 45.6% were suffering from acute hepatitis B. These 193 sera were further tested for delta antibody by ELISA technique. A low incidence (3.1%) of delta infection was found in the HBsAg positive individuals. As HBsAg carrier rate is fairly high in our country (10%) and all modalities of spread of HBV/delta agent are available here, so the risk of spread of delta agent is high in Pakistan.

Brig. Manzoor studied 200 cases of Hodgkin's disease. Mixed cellularity was found to be the commonest type constituting 50% cases, followed by nodular sclerosis 21%, lymphocytes predominance 9% and lymphocytic depletion 7%. Nodular sclerosis is more common in paediatric age group.

Dr. Surraya Latif in her presentation showed that fine needle aspiration biopsy and cytology in case of breast tumours gives a high accuracy rate of 98%. Metastatic tumours of lymph nodes and reactive hyperplasia are readily diagnosed. Thyroid needle aspirates can readily distinguish inflammation and hyperplasia from neoplasia. Technique of FNA is rapid, inexpensive and a good supplement to other diagnostic methods.

Dr. Masahiro Kikuchi presented his study on Malignant Lymphoma of T cell type. He pointed out that T cell lymphoma is divided into small cell, medium-sized cell, mixed cell, large cell, pleomorphic and lymphoblastic type of Japanese Classification and has common histological features of diffuse non-cohesive proliferation and irregular nuclear contours. Peripheral T Cell type shows all of the histological subtypes and the appearance of clear cells is important in some cases, but prethymic and thymic types represent only lymphoblastic variety. Immunologically, almost all of peripheral T cell lymphoma possess a helper/inducer phenotype but a few have suppressor/

cytotoxic markers. Adult T cell leukemia/lymphoma which have monoclonal provirus DNA of HTLV-1 demonstrates helper/inducer phenotype, but functionally usually shows suppressor or no function. In addition to these histological types, T zone, Lennert's and angio-immunoblastic lymphadenopathy like T cell lymphomas are encountered rarely. Almost all T cell lymphomas show rearrangement of T cell receptors, especially C and/or V.

This year "Razi Lecture" was delivered by Dr. Maurice Longson, an eminent Virologist from UK. His topic was Herpes simplex virus infection. Herpes simplex virus multiplies inside the cell and is later released from the cells in viral envelope. As the herpes simplex virus is enveloped therefore, antibodies produced against it by host are relatively ineffective. The result is that the parent cells become a regular virus factory and once herpes virus infection is acquired it persists. The lesion produced by herpes simplex virus are corneal uncers, keratitis, and herpes labialis. After the initial infection virus settles in dorsal root ganglion, travelling via exoplasm. In 95% cases genome of herpes simplex is present in Trigeminal and Genuiculate ganglia. If at any time the T cell surveillance is withdrawn momentarily the virus travels down and causes common lesion of herpes simplex. If the T Cell surveillance is not restored immediately the infection disseminates and may cause death.

A clinicopathological study of carcinoma breast was presented by Dr. Imtiaz Rasool. The study showed that the commonest presentation of carcinoma breast is a lump in the breast. Most of the patients consulted the physicians three months after the detection of a mass in the breast. Left breast is more frequently involved. Prognosis of the carcinoma of breast remains poor in Pakistan as most of the women belong to younger age group and report late to the physicians.

Dr. M.H. Memon analysed the pattern of malignant diseases in Sind. The report was based on Histopathological analysis of 4138 cases of malignancies. Male to female ratio was 1.06 to 1. Commonest cancers in female were malignancies of breast and genital organs. In males three most frequent sites were oral-cavity, skin and G.I. tract. Comparison of the 1982-84 and 1985-87 figures revealed marked increase of lung carcinoma, leukaemias and slight increase in liver cancer.

Brig. Abdul Hanan reported a possible break-through in the treatment of chloramphenicol resistant *Salmonella typhi* by 4 Quinolones. Chloramphenicol resistant *Salmonella typhi* has never before been reported in Pakistan. In this study 11 such strains were reported. These strains were fully susceptible to fluorinated quinolones.

Col. A. Karamat in his study presented an epidemiological survey of "Cholera in Pakistan". Special reference was given to the cases of 1977, 1981, 1983, 1985 and 1986 and stress was laid on early isolation and control of sporadic cases so that possible occurrence of epidemics of cholera can be avoided in future.

Major Mohammad Luqman's study concerned, laboratory detection of Hepatitis A Virus (HAV) in stools. The study revealed the irregular shedding of HAV in stools upto 3 weeks after the onset of jaundice. In view of present study and other reported series, the stools of a patient of hepatitis A should be considered infectious upto 3 weeks after the onset of jaundice and the necessary preventive measures adopted.

Dr. Taj. B. Uppal evaluated in vitro anti-fungal activity of ketoconazole and griseofulvin. It was intended to test the antifungal activity of ketoconazole before introduction in Pakistan market. It was observed that ketoconazole has a broad spectrum of anti-fungal activity, though not all strains are sensitive to it, yet it is much superior in activity to griseofulvin.

Dr. Taj B. Uppal also reported an improved method for direct examination of specimens for fungi. Routinely for direct diagnosis of fungal infections KOH preparations are used. In order to improve upon this method, brightener 'Tinopal' was added to the KOH solution. This made the fungal elements to appear clearer and brighter, thus making improvement in demonstration of fungi in clinical specimens.

Dr. Abbas Hayat presented a paper on carrier rate of group B streptococci in pregnant women and neonatal acquisition. Carrier rate of 9.3% among mothers and acquisition of 71.4% by neonates of the colonized and 1.4% of non-colonized mothers was found. Preterm rupture of membranes and preterm delivery is more common in carriers. This study showed that group B streptococci infection in prenatal and neonatal period are not un-common in Pakistan.

Brig. M. Saleem presented a Clinico-Pathological study of 35 cases of lipid storage disorders. A total of 35 cases of lipid storage disorders were diagnosed at AFIP, Rawalpindi, during the period January, 1984 to December 1986. Of these, 17 cases were of Gaucher's disease and 14 of Niemann Pick's Disease. All the patients were born of consanguinous marriages. A definite male preponderance existed (M: F, 3:1). Clinically all patients presented with abdominal distention and progressive pallor whereas fever and loose motions were common complaints.

Dr. M.F. Khattak presented his study on the prevalence of heterozygous beta thalassaemia in healthy adults from Northern areas of Pakistan. Adult, healthy, five hundred subjects of both sexes were screened. Beta thalassaemia trait was found in 5.4% of the 500 subjects studied. Dr. Zahur Rehman presented paper concerned, screening of cord blood for Hb Bart. The estimation of Hb-Bart by electrophoresis was carried out on 500 cord blood samples. Twelve cord blood samples (2.4%) showed presence of Hb-Bart. A pilot study was conducted by Dr. J.A. Khan to find out disorders of Haemoglobin in hospital patients. 264 patients with chronic anaemia were investigated for haemoglobin disorders over a period of 3 years. 53% of these cases were children of less than 4 years of age. The normal values of various types of haemoglobin were also studied in control group of 304 healthy subjects. Only 4 subjects (1.3%) had moderate elevation of Hb and they were identified to have hereditary persistence of foetal haemoglobin (HbF).