SUMMARY

Background

The parenterally transmitted hepatitis viruses (HBV and HCV) share similar routes of transmission with HIV. This study aims at studying the relevance of this possible viral interaction in CLDs in Nigeria.

Objectives:

1. General: To determine the sero-prevalence of HIV infection in patients presenting with CLDs
2. To compare the frequency of occurrence of certain risk factors for CLDs with that of the controls.
3. Specific: To determine if there are special histological characteristics associated with HIV-related CLDs.

Methods

This prospective case-control study was carried out in (55) patients with CLDs and fifty five controls. CLD was diagnosed using conventional clinical, laboratory, and histopathological indices. Viral infection was detected by serological screening for HBsAg, anti-HCV antibodies and HIV antibody test.

RESULTS.

Seven (7) out of 9 patients with chronic viral hepatitis representing 77.8% were HBsAg positive. Histologically, features suggestive of HBV infection were found in 7 patients while 1 patient had features of both HBV and HCV infection, and 1 was not specific. There were 17 patients with liver cirrhosis and 11 (64.7%) were HBsAg positive. There were 29 patients with
PHC and 16 (55%) were HBsAg positive. Anti-HCV was positive in only one (1) representing (3.4 %) of the study group.

HIV screening was positive in only 2 patients (3.6%) of the study group and in only (1) of the controls (p>0.05). Histologically, none of the HIV positive cases had additional features described as liver manifestations of HIV. Significant risk factors for CLDs in the study group were past history of scarification/ tattoo marks and past history of jaundice (P <0.05).

**Conclusion**

(1) It is concluded that viral aetiology (hepatitides) plays a significant role in CLDs in Nigeria

(2) The HIV seroprevalence rate appears low among our patients with CLD.

(3) HIV related liver manifestations were not found in this study.