ABSTRACT

Hepatitis C virus (HCV) is an emerging global health issue with particular relevance in Pakistan. The purpose of this study is to determine those significant factors which are directly related to Hepatitis C. This is a hospital based case-control study of 400 patients; out of which 119 are controlled patients (proved HCV negative) while 281 are cases (proved HCV positive). Patients admitted in gastroenterology and emergency wards of Jinah hospital, Sheikh Zayed hospital, and Mayo hospital in Lahore city were interviewed to gather risk factors information. The study duration was April to September 2006. Data collected through the developed questionnaire and analyzed descriptively and analytically. Before conducting the complete analysis of the collected data, some diagnostics for logistic regression model were applied to check the influential and leverage values in the data. Out of 407 observations, seven outlying observations were deleted and finally got 400 observations for complete analysis. Chi–Square test was used to measure the association among the different factors with Hepatitis C. Multiple linear logistic regression models were fitted separately for overall data, male, female, urban, rural patients. In the overall analysis; Age (O.R = 1.035, p = 0.001), marital status (O.R = 3.687, p = 0.001), patient's history of jaundice (O.R = 2.415, p = 0.01), family history of hepatitis (O.R = 4.069, p = 0.000), surgical operation (O.R = 1.810, p = 0.030) have significant and positive association with Hepatitis C. While family size (O.R = 0.919, p = 0.035) has negative association. In male patients only; age, marital status (1) [people who ever married], family history of hepatitis have positive relationship, while family size has negative association with Hepatitis C. In female patients only; patient's history of jaundice, blood transfusion, surgical operation, hospital admission, injection taken from Government hospitals and general practitioner were positively associated with Hepatitis. In urban patients only; age, marital status, surgical operation, loss of blood due to accident have positive relationship with Hepatitis C. while the mother's education has negative association with Hepatitis C. For urban male patient's age, marital status, family history of hepatitis, tattooing, and loss of blood due to accidents were found positively associated factors. While mother's education was negatively associated. In urban female patients; age, body piercing and surgical operation were the significant factors. Finally for rural patients only; there were patient's age, marital status, history of jaundice, family history of hepatitis, barber-shave occasionally, barber-shave daily have positive contribution to develop Hepatitis C.