

The clinical and epidemiological features of patients with liver abscess attended to the Teaching Hospital Jaffna from August 2018 to August 2020

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Introduction and Objectives: Liver abscess, a public health problem diagnosed clinically can manifest with variety of clinical and epidemiological features. Even though the amount of patient with this illness is decreasing annually still we need knowledge about its epidemiology and its presentation to draw up the effective control strategy for the elimination of this life-threatening condition. The aim of this study was to describe the clinical and epidemiological features of patients with liver abscess attended to the Teaching Hospital Jaffna from 2018 to 2020.

Methods: This retrospective descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted among the 325 clinically diagnosed patients with liver abscess admitted to the Teaching Hospital Jaffna from August 2018 to August 2020. There was no specific sampling technique as all the patients within the study period were included. The electronic- Indoor Morbidity and Mortality Return and Bed Head Tickets were the source of information. Data extraction form designed in the Kobo Collect application was used to collect the data mainly focused on a) demographic data of patients b) clinical presentation and c) investigations. After data cleaning, data was analyzed using Statistical Product and Service Solutions (SPSS).

Results: Between August 2018 and August 2020, 325 patients were clinically diagnosed with liver abscess and the middle-aged (n=214, 65.8% of the available data) manual workers(n=36,75% of the available data) with a history of toddy consumption(n=131, 69.84% of the available data) who occupy the majority of the proportion presented with fever(n=250, 80.1% of the available data), abdominal pain (n=222, 88.4% of the available data), constitutional symptoms, leucocytosis (n=210,69.3% of the available data), anaemia (n=101, 33.5% of the available data), elevated ESR (n=65,43.6% of the available data) and alkaline phosphatase (n=129, 61.1% of the available data) highly during the inter-monsoonal period (March to August). No association was observed between the age and sex of these patients. We are unable to find similar studies on secondary data in our literature review among the research studies about liver abscess. To sort out this we considered the not documented data as missing at random and we calculated the percentage again only for the data that is documented for some variables to discuss the findings with past studies.

Conclusion: Still many people specially the middle-aged manual workers who are the breadwinner of the family are affected much by this condition. We recommend conducting awareness programs about the disease, practise hygienic measures while preparing toddy, perform clinical skills and documentation properly.

Keywords: Amoebic liver abscess, Clinical and epidemiological features, Toddy, Jaffna.