

Title : SEROPREVALENCE OF PARVOVIRUS B19 IN BLOOD DONORS AT THE KITWE CENTRAL HOSPITAL, BLOOD BANK.

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ABSTRACT

Background: Human Parvovirus (B19V) is a small, single-stranded, non-enveloped DNA virus which is pathogenic to humans causing a wide array of clinical complications which include erythema infectiosum, aplastic crisis and hydrops foetalis. It is generally harmless in healthy individuals but may be life threatening in immunocompromised individuals such as patients with sickle cell disease, cancer, HIV and pregnant women. It has been shown to be transmissible by blood transfusion but donor screening for the virus is not yet mandatory in most sub-Saharan African countries including Zambia.

Materials and methods: This was a cross sectional study undertaken at the Kitwe Central Hospital, Blood Bank and Tropical Diseases Research Centre at Ndola Central Hospital. A total of 192 blood samples were screened for Ig M antibodies against parvovirus B19 by ELISA.

Results: The prevalence of parvovirus B19 Ig M in this study was 15.6%. The majority of the positive cases were in the age group 15-22 years (17.8%) but there was no statistical significance between occurrence of parvovirus and age (p value=0.703). Prevalence in males was higher than in female's that is 16.4% and 13.8%, respectively. The relationship between gender and parvovirus B19 occurrence was however not significant either (p value=0.516)

Conclusion: This study showed a 15.6% prevalence rate of acute Parvovirus B19 infections in blood donors at the Kitwe Central Hospital, Blood Bank. Studies with larger sample sizes are needed to validate these results.

BIOGRAPHY

Memory C. Kalolekesha has completed her MSc. in Pathology with a major in Haematology from the university of Zambia School of Medicine. She has a paper waiting to be published in the next issue of African health sciences journal and working on some papers yet to be published. She currently is one of the reviewers for AJHS. She is a lecturer in the department of Basic Sciences at the Copperbelt University School of Medicine in Ndola, Zambia.

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