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EDITOR'S NOTE

The advancement of drug regimen has given hope for the complete eradication of hepatitis C viral infection. Affecting 71 million people around the world, this fatal liver disease claims approximately 39,900 lives each year. It can progress to liver cirrhosis and cancer. Direct-acting antiviral are the class of drugs that target specific non-structural proteins of virus which results in disruption of viral replication and infection. With the advent of direct-acting antiviral drugs the treatment of hepatitis C has transformed greatly. Sofosbuvir, due to its low side effects, oral administration, high potency, shorter duration of treatment and high barrier to resistance has gained particular interest among direct-acting antiviral. The United States Food and Drug Administration approved sofosbuvir in 2013 for treatment of chronic hepatitis C, in combination with ribavirin, or in combination with PEG-IFN- α and ribavirin. Previously, the Food and Drug Administration approved direct-acting oral drugs for adults only, given that each individual presents with a different phenotype for the disease. Another reason was that the manifestation of viral infection in children is quite different from adults. Children remain asymptomatic early on but the develop cirrhosis and liver failure in adulthood. Hence, this issue required early intervention. The Food and Drug Administration has now approved, after significant research and development, Sovaldi (sofosbuvir) and Harvoni (ledipasvir and sofosbuvir) to treat hepatitis C viral infection in children aged 12 to 17 years. Trials for children under the age of 12 are in p r o g r e s s .

Prof. Dr. Sina Aziz (Chief Editor)

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNAL VOL. 22(4) DECEMBER, 2017

EDITORIAL

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

Comparison of the Mean Serum Ferritin Levels in Thalassaemia Major Patients after Giving Deferasirox and Deferoxamine

Thalassaemia is a familial blood disorder in which the body makes an abnormal form of haemoglobin. It is one of the most common genetic disorders in Pakistan with over hundred thousand patients and eight million carriers. The prime complication of the disease is iron overload in different cells of the body due to frequent blood transfusions. Iron chelating drugs like deferoxamine and deferasirox are required to rid the body of high serum ferritin levels. Thorough studies and comparison of drugs are necessary to select the best drug of choice for the patient's treatment.

Impact of Measles Vaccination on the Acquisition and Frequency of Measles Infection in Province of Sindh

Measles is the most infectious disease known affecting 30 million people annually. Most of the deaths occur in underprivileged countries including Pakistan in spite of the accessibility to an effective vaccine. Malnutrition and lack of basic health facilities increase the rate of fatalities. Despite the measures, Pakistan has unfortunately stood out as the highest measles reporting country in the Eastern Mediterranean region in 2013. There is a need for immediate measures to be taken in order to prevent the disease by finding out the reasons why the disease prevails in people who have been immunised. More people must be immunised properly to ensure the decrease in occurrence.

Analysis of Optic Nerve Types in Relation to Posterior Paranasal Sinuses: A Computed Tomographic Study

The anatomic relationships of the sphenoid sinus and neighbouring structures are important to otolaryngologists for performing sinus and trans-septal or trans-sphenoidal pituitary surgeries. Serious complications may arise due to close proximity of important structures such as orbit, brain, cavernous sinus, and internal carotid artery with the sphenoid sinus. The optic nerve is at a particular risk and post-operative blindness has been reported. It is therefore necessary to assess the variations of the course of optic nerve in relation to posterior paranasal sinus.

KAP STUDY

Knowledge and Attitude towards Emergency Contraceptives among Nursing and Midwifery Students in Tertiary Care Hospitals, Karachi

Emergency contraception is a birth control measure used to prevent pregnancy after sexual intercourse. Unintended pregnancies in Pakistan contribute to population growth due to lack of awareness regarding contraceptive methods. Also, as most couples in our country do not favour long-term contraception, emergency contraceptives can be used to avoid unwanted pregnancies and unsafe abortion, subsequently decreasing antenatal maternal mortality. It is extremely important that nursing and midwifery students have a firm basis of knowledge regarding the topic to increase awareness and help develop a positive attitude towards emergency contraception.

Quiz: To enhance the knowledge that our journal imparts, we have introduced pictorial quiz consisting of a photograph of a clinical condition along with a scenario followed by a quiz, the key to which is provided. We anticipate that this addition will enlighten our readers.