Hepatitis E

Merlin disease code: 07053 Hepatitis E

Merlin extended data required

Background

Hepatitis E is an acute viral illness characterized by discrete onset of symptoms and either jaundice or elevated liver enzymes. Symptoms most commonly include fatigue, abdominal pain, loss of appetite/anorexia, nausea, vomiting, or dark urine (tea colored).

Clinical criteria for case classification

Confirmatory:
Both of the following:
- Discrete onset of symptoms
- **And** either of the following:
    - Jaundice
    - **Or** elevated liver enzymes.

Presumptive:
Discrete onset of symptoms.

Laboratory criteria for case classification

Both of the following:
- One or more of the following as evidence of Hepatitis E virus (HEV) infection:
    - Positive IgM antibody to HEV (IgM anti-HEV),
    - **Or** positive HEV RNA by polymerase chain reaction (PCR),
    - **Or** positive total antibody (IgM and IgG) to HEV (anti-HEV)
- **And** all the following:
    - Absence of a positive IgM antibody to hepatitis A virus (IgM anti-HAV),
    - **And** absence of a positive IgM antibody to hepatitis B core antigen (IgM anti-HBc),
    - **And** absence of a positive hepatitis B virus surface antigen (HBsAg),
    - **And** absence of a positive hepatitis C virus antibody (anti-HCV).

Epidemiological criteria for case classification

Not applicable.

Case classification

Confirmed:
A person with confirmatory clinical criteria and laboratory criteria.

Probable:
A person with presumptive clinical criteria and laboratory criteria.

Criteria to distinguish a new case from previous reports

Not applicable.

Comments

Report all available liver enzyme results for every case under liver function tests (Merlin disease code: 00000).

See graphic for additional information related to the serological course of disease.