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Diagnostic Study of Venereal Disease Research Lab (VDRL), Malaria Parasite (MP) and Blood Grouping in Human Blood Donors

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ABSTRACT

Our current study was conducted on the Prevalence of VDRL, MP and Blood grouping of Human blood donors in University of Swat. The aim and objective of our current study is to determine the prevalence of VDRL and MP and distribution of blood groups among males, district Swat. For this purpose, A totals of 65 blood donors' were screened for the above disease, out of which, 24 collected from Al-Fajar Foundation, Gulkada and 41 from Frontier Foundation, Mingora. The results shows that the donors were non-reactive for VDRL and MP whereas the ABO blood groups distribution among males, were 32.30%, was group A, 35.30% was group B, 10.7% AB and 21.50% were O. The prevalence of A+ blood group were 32.3%, B+ blood group were 32.3%, O+ blood group were 21.5%, AB+ blood group were 9.23%, AB- blood group were 1.53% and the O- and A- blood groups were not found among male blood donors. This study concludes that, there are no reactive or positive cases of VDRL and MP among male blood donors, so that's why there is no prevalence of VDRL and MP among male blood donors of the District Swat, and the A+ (32.3%) and B+ (32.3%) blood groups are very common in the swat and the blood group O- and A- are very rare.

Abbreviations: VDRL: Venereal Disease Research Laboratory; FTA-ABS: Fluorescent Treponemal Antibody Absorption; MICT: Mother-to-Child Transmission; ANC: Antenatal Care; TTIs: Transfusion Transmitted Infections; RBC: Red Blood Cells

Introduction

Venereal Disease Research Laboratory (VDRL) test is a nontreponemal test, used for the screening of syphilis. VDRL test still the most used test throughout the world. And still remains unchallenged. CSF VDRL test is very specific for neurosyphilis [1]. There are three basic methods used for syphilis screening such as dark field microscopy, notreponemal and treponemal to identify spirochete. The more sensitive nontreponemal tests are VDRL and RPR use for early screening; while specific treponemal test is Fluorescent Treponemal Antibody Absorption (FTA-ABS) use to confirm diagnosis [2]. Syphilis infection caused by *Treponema pallidum* belongs to spirochete group of bacteria; also assist the transmission of HIV [3,4]. According to World Health Organization

about 12 million endure the syphilis throughout the world in every year. The oral and genital mucus are more sensitive to Treponema pallidum bacteria [5]. Syphilis infection can be transfer from mother to child [6]. Mother-to-child transmission (MICT) of syphilis during pregnancy can cause a serious fetal outcomes in the second or third trimester such as early fetal death, stillbirth, neonatal death, preterm birth, low birth weight and congenital infections in infants [7]. Syphilis is the second most common infection causing of stillbirth worldwide [8]. Preventing MTCT of syphilis through expanded early testing in antenatal care (ANC) and immediate treatment with a single injection of benzathin penicillin [9], is highly cost-effective [10,11].

Human blood and blood products are used for the prevention and treatment of life threatening-disease and also reduced transfusion transmitted infections (TTIs) such as syphilis infections, HIV, HBV, and HCV [12]. The transfusion of unscreened or screened blood and blood products are the major source of TTIs in developing countries like India [13]. It has been found that genetically determined ABO blood group antigen which is present in blood may block binding of possible TTIs causative organism to polysaccharides on cell but non-secretor are lacking in their antigen and are at risk to variety of infections TTIs [14]. Blood group means the entire blood group system contain red blood cells (RBC) antigens that are controlled by specific genes. Karl Landsteiner has been credited for the discovery of ABO blood group system in 1900 [15]. Discovery of ABO blood group system extend the way for discoveries in the field of immune haematology, blood transfusion among humans [16]. The ABO blood group is divided into four blood types (A, B, AB, and O) on the basis of presence or absence of A and B surface antigens. ABO blood group is major because of the certainty that A and B are strongly antigenic and anti A and anti B is naturally develop antibodies present in the serum of individuals require the analogous antigen. These antibodies have ability to produce intravascular hemolytic in case of incompatible transfusion [17]. The Rh (Rhesus) system is the second most important blood group system in human blood transfusion with presently 50 antigens.

The most important antigen is the D antigen, because it produces immune system response of the five Rh antigens. D-negative persons have no any anti-D IgG or IgM antibodies, because anti-D antibodies are not normally produce by the hypersensitivity against the environmental substances. But D-negative persons can produce IgG anti-D antibodies [18]. Rh blood group was discovered by Landsteiner and Wiener in 1941 [19]. Rh antigens are largely immunogenic. D-negative persons produce anti-D if they encounter the D antigen through transfusion or pregnancy and causes hemolytic transfusion reaction of fetus and newborn. For this reason, the Rh status normally determined in blood donors, transfusion recipients and in mothers [20]. Recently studied that, ABO group not only for blood transfusion but also associated in various infectious disease transmission such as malaria, salivary gland tumors, colorectal cancer, carcinoma of stomach, thyroid disorder, ovarian tumors and small cell lung cancer [21]. Malaria is the most deadly parasitic infection in the worldwide. Malaria can transmit by blood transfusion, from mother to fetus and by using of infected needle. Malaria is generally transmitted by female Anopheles mosquito acting as a vector to disperse the genus of Plasmodium [22]. Plasmodium is transmitted to human by mosquito biting. This Plasmodium either enter into the RBCs or hepatocytes through the blood streams [23]. There are five species of Plasmodium known to cause malaria, such as; P. malariae, P. vivax, P. falciparum, P. ovale and P. knowlesi.P. vivax and P. falciparum species are mostly common in Pakistan [24].

Human Red Blood Cells (RBCs) or erythrocytes are the major sites of these parasites infection. The infected person suffers from the high fever, chills, nausea and anemia. Now is malaria known as the tropic disease [25]. Malaria transmission period for P.vivax peaking from June to September and again in April to June, when relapses on infections acquired the previous season are observed, while the transmission period for *P.falciparum* is between August and September in Pakistan [26]. The lifecycle of Plasmodium is very complex. Malaria caused in human by the transmission of plasmodium species through the mosquito female Anopheles. And these *Plasmodium* species transmits into the vertebrates [27]. Mostly female mosquito takes blood meals, because she needs supplementary blood meals to produce eggs. When a female mosquito bites it transmits sporozoites from its saliva into the human blood stream. Studies have shown that salivary duct of mosquito are blocked by these parasites, as results of which mosquito require more effort to achieve food [28]. Small amount of sporozoite engulf by macrophages and other by lymphatic system where they become destroyed. In the skin it is suppose that about 10% of the parasite remains which mature into infectious merozoites [29,30]. After entering of sporozoites into the liver cells they develop into the shizonts and these scizonts consists of merozoits. But in case of P.vivaxand P. ovale may exist in hypnozoite condition [31,32]. The travel of maturation and development of parasite from liver to RBCs are not clear. Later on a thousand of merozoites enclosed in merosomes which are budded off from hepatocytes which stay in pulmonary capillaries. Moderately it release meroizoites and degenerate. This all process takes 48-72 hours. The maximum invasion of RBCs is closely packed cells and slow blood flow occurs in alveolar capillaries [33,34]. Within the erythrocyte merozoites develop into the trophozoites. During schizont stage are rapid division occurs and new merozoites are produce [35]. The merozoites change into the gametocytes (male and female gametes) within the bone marrow. The gametocytes are mostly present in the patient's blood, so mosquito takes it during blood meals. Gametocytes of P. falciparum take 7-15 days and 1-3 days in other species, to absorb in blood [36,37]. Gametocytes mature in gametes and fertilization occur in midgut of the mosquito and gametes change into the motile zygote known as ookinetes. Apoptosis occurs in 50% of the unknown reason. And the rest of ookinetes run away from the midgut through the periphery of the midgut membrane, and penetrates the liver and here it divides a few times to produce sporozoites. These sporozoites then go to salivary gland and during blood meals it inject into the blood of the host [38].

Aim and Objectives

The aim and objective of this study is to determine the prevalence of VDRL and MP and distribution of blood groups among males in swat (Figure 1).

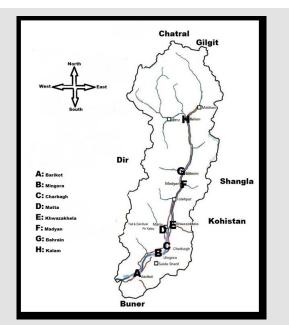


Figure 1: Study area district Swat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.

Materials and Methods

Study Area

Swat is the District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa of Pakistan. This beautiful valley is located at 34°-40 to 35° North latitude and 72 to 74-6 East longitude. Surrounded by Chatral (North), Buner and Malakand District (South) and Shangla District (East).

Data Collection

The study was conducted from July to December 2020 at University of Swat, Town Ship Kanju, Swat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. The blood was collected in blood bags from the all age of male students from different departments by the Informed Oral Consent. Total of 65 blood samples were collected in which, 24 blood samples were collected by the Al-Fajar Foundation team, Gulkada, Saidu Sharif Swat at November 2020 while 41 were collected by Frontier Foundation, Mingora, at July 2020. The blood samples were taken based on the body weight (50<kg), it means that only those males had donated the blood whose had more than 50kg weight and also based on the previous disease.

Data Analysis

The data was collected through the informed oral consent and then analyzed to determine the prevalence of VDRL and MP tests results among males and also determined the distribution of blood groups. So it was recorded that there were simple percentage of blood groups and non-reactive VDRL and MP among males.

Results

A total of 65 blood donors were VDRL and MP non-reactive (Table 1) and out of 65 blood donors, 14 (21.5%) were 0+, 21 (32.3%) were A+, 21(32.3%) were B+, 2 (3.07%) were B-, 1 (1.53%) were AB- and 6 (9.23%) were AB+ blood groups were determined and there O- and A- blood groups were not determined (Table 2). There were 0% prevalence of VDRL and MP negative among males, all of 100% negative (Figure 2).

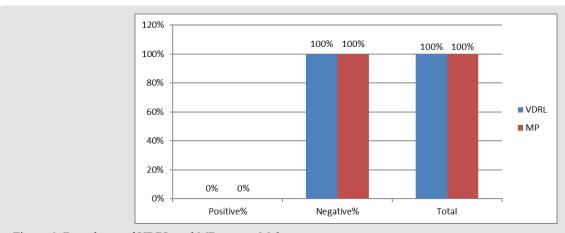


Figure 2: Prevalence of VDRL and MP among Males.

Table 1: Prevalence of VDRL and MP among Males.

Parameters	Positive	Positive%	Negative	Negative%	Total
VDRL	0	0	65	100%	65
MP	0	0	65	100%	65

Table 2: Prevalence of Blood Grouping among Males.

Blood Grouping									
Blood Groups	0+	0-	A+	A-	B+	B-	AB+	AB-	Total
Frequencies	14	0	21	0	21	2	6	1	65

Prevalence of Blood Grouping among Males

Out of 65 blood donors, 14 (21.5%) were 0+, 21 (32.3%) were A+, 21(32.3%) were B+, 2 (3.07%) were B-, 1 (1.53%) were AB- and 6 (9.23%) were AB+ blood groups were determined and there O-

and A- blood groups were not determined. The percentage of blood groups among males; (21.5%) were 0+, (32.3%) were A+, (32.3%) were B+, (3.07%) were B-, (1.53%) were AB- and (9.23%) were AB+ blood groups were determined and there 0- and A- were 0% (Figure 3).

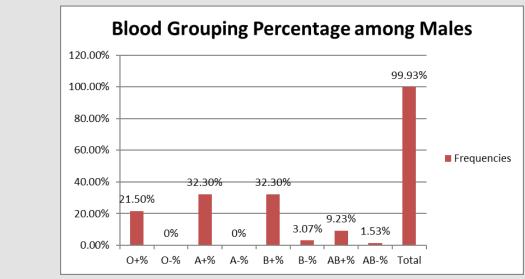
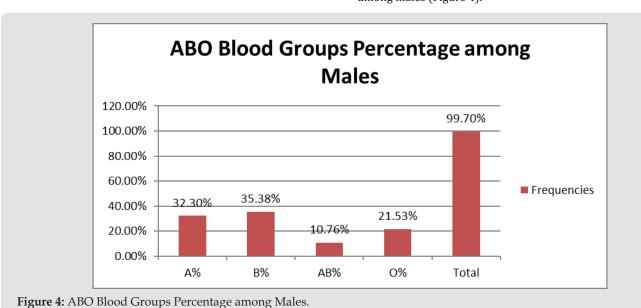


Figure 3: Percentage of Total Blood Groups among Males.

ABO Blood Groups among Males

The ABO blood grouping had different frequencies such as; 21 (32.30%) were A blood group, 23 (35.38%) were B blood group,

7 (10.76%) were AB blood group and 14 (21.53%) were O blood group (Table 3). There were 32.30% A blood group, 35.38% B blood group, 10.76% AB blood group and 21.53% O blood group among males (Figure 4).



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Table 3: Distribution of ABO Blood Groups among Males.

ABO Blood Groups									
ABO Blood Groups	A	A%	В	В%	AB	AB%	0	0%	Total
Frequencies	21	32.30%	23	35.38%	7	10.76%	14	21.53%	65

Discussion

In our study a total of 65 blood donors, 14 (21.5%) were 0+, 21 (32.3%) were A+, 21 (32.3%) were B+, 2 (3.07%) were B-, 1 (1.53%) were AB- and 6 (9.23%) were AB+ blood groups were determined and there O- and A- blood groups were not determined among males, and no reactive tests of VDRL and MP. The study was reported by Garg et al. (2014) at Tertiary Care Teaching Hospital of Kumaon Region of Uttarakhand in India, there was the frequency of A- (1.72%) and O- (1.55%) whereas in our study A- and O- were not found. Another study was reported by [39] on 429 female in District Peshawar, there was the frequency of 0- (27%) is greater than that of our population. The study was reported by Umer Khan et al. (2014) on 3000 male and female blood donors in Lahore, there was the frequency of blood group B (37.8%) and O (28.8%) greater than that of our population. The study was reported by [40] in Pakistan. A total of 707 PCR-positive samples in which; 128 (18%) were P. falciparum, 536 (76%) were P. vivax and 43 (6%) were mixed P. falciparum and P. vivax. 94 microscopy positive samples were PCRnegative. In our study all of the malaria non-reactive cases were there. The study was reported by [41] in Pakistan. A total of 6119 suspected malaria cases in which 2346 were malaria positive cases on blood smear slides. In our study a total of 65 blood donors were malaria non-reactive. The study was reported by Peterman and Kidd (2020) in United State.

They worked on trends in death due to syphilis, during 1968-2015, 6498 deaths were caused, in which 4149 were males and 2349 were females. In the current study of the total 65 blood donors are VDRL non-reactive. Another study was reported by [42] at North India. A total of 28920 serum samples were collected in 6 years for VDRL testing. Out of 28920serum samples, 972 were reactive and 1722 were submitted for TPPA testing in which 374 were positive. In our study no reactive cases of VDRL were there. A study was reported by [43-46] in Karachi, Pakistan. They studied on 800 pregnant women. The prevalence of syphilis among women in Ibrahim Hyderi was 1.5 % higher than in other sites 0.5%. In our study there were no VDRL reactive cases among the males in swat.

Conclusion

This study concludes that there is no prevalence of VDRL and MP among male blood donors. All of 65 blood samples are VDRL and MP negative. And out of 65 male blood donors 14 (21.53%) were 0+, 21 (32.3%) were A+, 21 (32.3%) were B+, 2 (3.0%) were B-, 1 (1.5%) were AB- and 6 (9.2%) were AB+ whereas A- and O-blood groups were not found. So, it concludes that the blood groups

A- and O- are very rare in the Swat and A+ and B+ blood groups has very high frequency as compare to previous studies, it shows that the A+ and B+ blood group are very commonest blood groups in the District Swat.

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