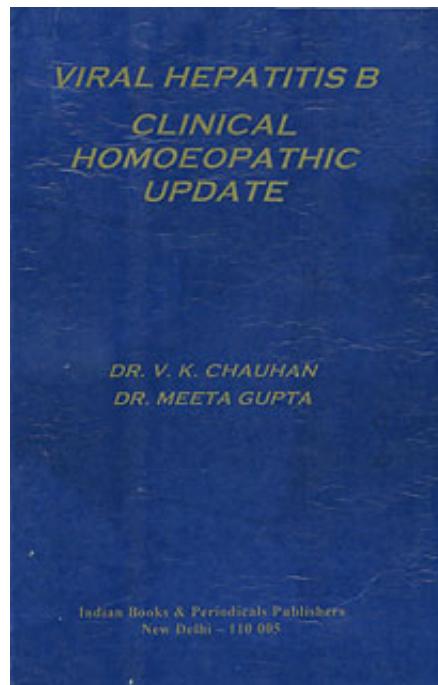


Chauhan / Gupta

Viral Hepatitis B: Clinical Homoeopathic Update

Reading excerpt

[Viral Hepatitis B: Clinical Homoeopathic Update](#)
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PREFACE

Recent data from W.H.O. suggests that hepatitis is one of the top ranking causes of death from infectious diseases along with malaria. There are many varieties of viral hepatitis: A, B, C, D, E.

A high proportion of hepatitis cases in developing countries is associated with the enterically transmitted agents, i.e. A and E, because environmental conditions in most endemic areas favour the faecal-oral route of transmission.

While hepatitis A and E are self-limiting, hepatitis B and C are responsible for a large proportion of the deaths, due to associated complications, i.e. chronic hepatitis, cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma. Hepatitis D affects only those with hepatitis B infection. There will undoubtedly be other members of the hepatitis alphabet.

Currently, hepatitis B is a much more important public health problem in India than hepatitis A. On a worldwide basis, more than 250 million people are estimated to suffer from '*Chronic Hepatitis B*' infection. 50% of these can be expected to die prematurely.

The main concern about hepatitis B, however, is the persistence of infection, especially when it is acquired at an early age. Individuals with persistent infection represent considerable morbidity and have the potential for high mortality.

While some remain asymptomatic carriers, others will develop chronic hepatitis B, which may lead to cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma and death. The carrier rate in India varies from 0.6 - 5.8 %.

Hepatitis B virus was the first human hepatitis virus from which the proteins and genome could be identified and characterised. Recent years have witnessed a rapid and phenomenal progress of this field, which is an attraction and challenge to any group of medical fraternity.

However, the aetiological diagnosis of viral hepatitis is based on specific serological tests, and cannot be made on epidemiological or clinical grounds. Moreover, the concept of vaccination is still a matter of considerable controversy.

This booklet provides a comprehensive up-to-date appraisal of the recent explosion of knowledge in hepatitis. It begins with historical development followed by discussions on

the epidemiology, diagnostic serology, pathobiology, clinical aspects, treatment and prevention of the disease.

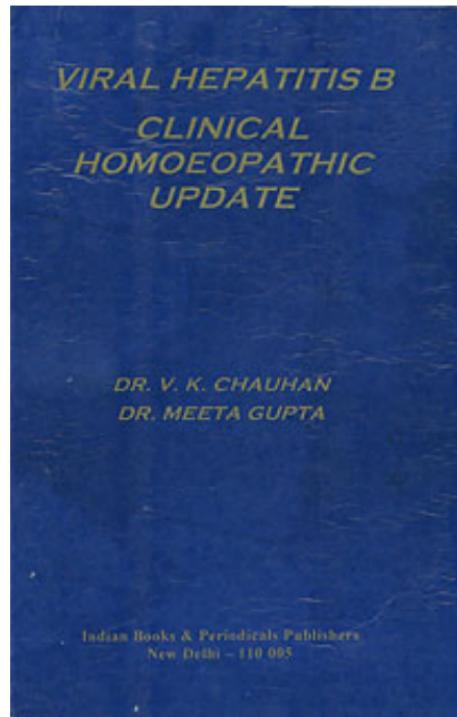
It is hoped that the present work will prove useful and beneficial not only to homoeopathic practising physicians, but also to research workers and students.

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