



Reporting Criteria for Hepatitis A

(1) Definition

Acute viral hepatitis caused by hepatitis A virus (HAV).

(2) Clinical manifestations

The main route of infection is oral ingestion of contaminated food or water. The average incubation period is 4 weeks. Patients start to shed the virus via stools 3-4 weeks before the onset of clinical symptoms. Virus shedding continues for several months. The main clinical symptoms are fever, general malaise and anorexia, often associated with jaundice and hepatomegaly. The prognosis is generally good and does not become chronic. In rare occasions, fulminant type hepatitis is observed. Among young children, most cases are asymptomatic or, even if symptomatic, illness is very mild. No specific therapies are available and patients are treated symptomatically.

(3) Reporting criteria

a) "Patients (confirmed cases)"

In compliance with Article 12 paragraph 1 of the Infectious Diseases Control Law, if a physician examines a patient with clinical findings as described in (2), suspects HAV infection, and makes a diagnosis of hepatitis A based on the results obtained by the laboratory methods and specimens as described below, the physician must notify the case immediately.

b) "Asymptomatic carriers"

In compliance with Article 12 paragraph 1 of the Infectious Diseases Control Law, if a physician examines an individual who had no clinical signs or symptoms as described in (2), but diagnoses that the individual is a HAV carrier based on the results obtained by the laboratory methods and specimens as described below, the physician must notify the case immediately.

c) "Deceased (death attributed to HAV infection)"

In compliance with Article 12 paragraph 1 of the Infectious Diseases Control Law, if a physician examines a deceased individual with clinical signs and symptoms as described in (2), and, diagnoses that the death was due to HAV infection based on the results obtained by the laboratory methods and specimens as described below, the physician must notify the case immediately.

d) "Deceased (death suspected to be brought about by HAV infection)"

In compliance with Article 12 paragraph 1 of the Infectious Diseases Control Law, if a physician examines a deceased individual with clinical signs and symptoms as described in (2) and suspects that the death was caused by HAV infection, the physician must notify the case immediately.

| Laboratory methods | Specimen |
|---|--------------|
| Detection of the pathogen's gene by PCR | Blood, stool |
| Detection of IgM antibody | Serum |