

HLA DRB Alleles in Chronic Hepatitis B Infected Patients

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ABSTRACT Chronic hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection is one of the most common infectious diseases and leads to high morbidity and mortality due to the development of liver cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinomas. We have analyzed the HLA DRB1 allele associations among 26 clinically definite western Indian chronic hepatitis B infected patients and compared them with 31 ethnically matched clinically normal individuals. HLA DRB1 alleles were defined molecularly using commercial low-resolution DRB1 polymerase chain reaction sequence specific priming kit. The study revealed a significant increase of DRB1*15 (57.69% vs 24.19%; OR= 4.27; EF= 0.44; P value 0.0002) allele as well as a significant decrease of DRB1*13 (0% vs 11.29%; P value 0.012), DRB1*04 (0% vs 6.45%; P value 0.062) and DRB1*14 (5.76% vs 16.12%; OR= 0.318; PF= 0.10; P value 0.08) alleles when compared to the controls. This is the first report on HLA DRB1 allele associations from Western Indian HBV infected patients. Further our study indicates that there is a complexity of genetic susceptibility to HBV infection in different populations studied and reported.