

A Clinical Study of Acute Liver Injury Over the Last Decade (2000–2009) in the Department of Gastroenterology and Medicine, Fukuoka University School of Medicine

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Abstract : A total of 112 patients with acute liver injury in the Department of Gastroenterology and Medicine, Fukuoka University School of Medicine, during a 10-year period (from 2000 to 2009), were analyzed to identify any association risk factors. Acute hepatitis B was the most frequent cause, being involved in 36 cases (32.1%). Unidentified liver damage was document in 32 (28.6%) patients, and drug-induced hepatitis was observed in 18 (16.1%) patients. Acute hepatitis C was only found in four cases during this period (3.6%). In the last five years, the number of patients with acute hepatitis B and drug-induced hepatitis increased. Among the 13 cases of severe hepatitis, ten cases (76.9%) were caused by hepatitis B virus, thus strongly suggesting that the establishment of a universal vaccination against the hepatitis B virus is urgently required in Japan. In addition, physicians and patients should be aware of the risk of acute liver injury due to both pharmaceutical agents and health foods.

Key words : Acute liver injury, Acute hepatitis B, Drug induced hepatitis, Clinical study, Fukuoka University