

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

BLOOD GROUPS AND PEPTIC ULCER

Sir,

Peptic ulcer is a common disease in Kashmir. Out of 5300 patients who attended S.M.H.S. Hospital in Srinagar in 1964-65, 9.3% suffered from peptic ulcer.

Persons belonging to blood group O have been reported to be relatively more susceptible as compared to blood group A and B to peptic ulcer, (1,2,3,4). This study was undertaken to find any correlation between blood group and peptic ulcer.

1. Blood group of 534 healthy subjects was studied as a random sample of the population in Kashmir.
2. Blood group of 150 ulcer patients, (Duodenal ulcer-96, Gastric ulcer-29, Pyloric stenosis-25) in surgical and medical wards of S.M.H.S. Hospital was investigated. Diagnosis of ulcer had already been established based on barium meal examination and surgical exploration.

TABLE I : The comparison of percentage frequency in peptic ulcer patients.

Blood group	% frequency of blood groups in population (534)	% frequency of blood groups in patients (150)
A	22.9	22.3
B	41.7	32.6
O	28.5	37.3
AB	6.9	7.8

As is evident from the table there is a high frequency of B group in Kashmiri population (41.7%) as compared to other groups but in ulcer population it is only 32.6% and thus shows a definite fall. The percentage frequency of O group in the population is 28.5% but increases to 37.3% in ulcer patients. There is no appreciable change in percentage frequency of A and AB groups.

The data thus indicate that O group persons are relatively more susceptible to peptic ulcer as compared to other groups particularly B group subjects. CHI square was found to be 6.448 and $P > 0.05$. It is clear from the results that when blood group distribution in ulcer persons to non ulcer persons is compared, the possibility of the two populations being the same is more than 1 in 20 which is significant. The general frequency distribution of the population is essentially similar to that reported from other parts of the country (5).

The present study shows an increase in percentage frequency of O group in ulcer patients (37.3%) as compared to the normal population (28.5%), a reversal and decrease of frequency in B group subjects from 41.7% in normal population to 32.6% in peptic ulcer population. This indicates a relatively greater susceptibility of O group subjects and relative immunity of B group subjects to peptic ulcer.

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