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Summary

ANTI-HDV REFLEX TESTING IN HBSAG-POSITIVE SUBJECTS: THE BEST STRATEGY TO IDENTIFY HDV INFECTION

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Hepatobiliary

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Implementation of anti-HDV reflex testing in all HBsAg-positive patients at an Italian hospital increased the absolute number of HDV diagnoses from 14 to 52 despite a lower prevalence rate.

KEY POINTS

- Before reflex testing, only 16.4% of HBsAg-positive subjects were tested for anti-HDV; after implementation, 100% were tested.
- The absolute number of anti-HDV positive patients increased from 14 to 52 between 2019 and 2022, though prevalence decreased from 16.6% to 10.7%.
- HDV-RNA was detectable in 26 of 49 subjects tested (53%).
- The authors conclude that reflex anti-HDV testing should be implemented in clinical practice to identify patients with HBV/HDV infection, particularly given forthcoming approval of specific anti-HDV drugs.

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