

Prevalence of ABO and Rhesus Blood Groups in various blood donors in Kashmir

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Abstract:

Background: *The ABO blood group system was the first human blood group system to be discovered by Landsteiner in 1900. The second type of blood group is the rhesus system. There are only two Rh phenotype such as Rh positive and Rh negative, depending on whether Rh antigen is present on the red cell or not. The frequency of ABO and Rh phenotypes in different populations has been extensively studied. The present study was done to assess the prevalence of blood groups in various blood donors in Kashmiri population, a part of Northern India and to compare our results with other studies conducted in other parts of India and elsewhere in the world.*

Material and Methods: *The study group consisted of various blood donors from the records of thirteen years (01-01-2000 to 31-12-2012) from blood bank of 800 bedded hospital. A total of fifty one*

thousand six hundred and sixty one blood groups were determined. ABO and Rhesus blood groups were estimated by DiaCion ABO/D+ reverse grouping for patients.

Results: *The frequency of ABO and Rhesus phenotypes was calculated. From our results it was found that the most frequently occurring blood group was blood group 'O' (35.71%) and the least occurring blood group was AB (6.8%). Majority (91.06%) of the study population was Rhesus positive. The prevalence of co-existing ABO/Rhesus phenotypes was calculated from which it was found that the more frequently group was O +ve (32.16%) followed by B+ve (30.5%) and A+ve (22.09) and the least found group was AB+ve (6.27%). Donors with Rhesus negative groups comprised only 8.93% of total in which, O negative, B negative, A negative and AB negative occurred at frequencies of 3.55%, 2.79%, 2.02%, 0.54% respectively.*

Conclusion: *Commonest blood group in our community is blood group O, followed by B, A and then AB respectively. 91.06% of our population is Rhesus positive.*

Key words: Blood Donor, Commonest Group, Prevalence, Kashmir.

Introduction:-

ABO blood groups were discovered in 1900 by Landsteiner and Rhesus in 1940. Since 1901, more than 20 distinct blood group systems have been identified but the ABO and Rhesus (Rh) blood groups remain clinically most important. Furthermore, they are also well-defined genetic markers employed in population genetic and anthropological studies. The ABO blood group system is the only system in which antibodies are consistently and predictably present in the serum of normal individuals whose red cells lack the antigens¹⁻³. Apart from differences amongst species, differences between the individuals of the same species have also been demonstrated. During the World wars, it was discovered for the first time that the frequency of ABO and Rhesus blood groups was different in persons native to different parts of the world. Attempts have

been made to classify the racial groups of mankind according to the incidence of known blood groups⁴.

The second type of blood group is the rhesus system. There are only two Rh phenotype such as Rh positive and Rh negative, depending on whether Rh antigen is present on the red cell or not. Rh system emerged as second most important blood group system due to hemolytic disease of newborn and its importance in RhD negative individuals in subsequent transfusions once they develop Rh antibodies³.

Determination of ABO blood groups is done by detecting A and B antigens. In addition, known red cells are used to detect anti-A and anti-B in the serum, by a process called ‘reverse’ grouping. ABO and Rh gene phenotypes vary widely across races and geographical boundaries ⁵⁻⁷ despite the fact that the antigens involved are stable throughout life.

The frequency of ABO and Rh phenotypes in different populations has been extensively studied. Different blood groups have been shown to be particularly associated with different diseases as well ^{8,9}.

TABLE 1: Blood types with their genotypes and their constituent agglutinogens and agglutinins.

GENOTYPE	BLOOD TYPE	AGGLUTINOGENS	AGGLUTININS
OO	O	-	Anti-A and Anti- B
OA/AA	A	A	Anti-B
OB/BB	B	B	Anti-A
AB	AB	A and B	-

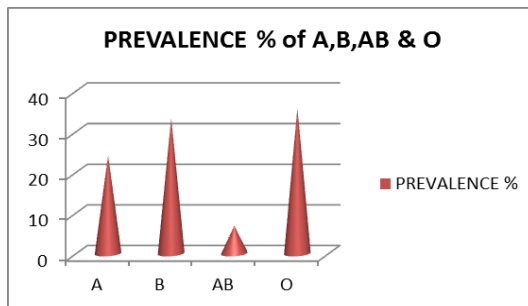


Figure 1.

ABO and Rhesus blood groups exhibit extensive polymorphism in different populations and the frequency at which each of the blood group exists shows considerable variations in different populations. This study has been done to know the frequency of various blood groups in Kashmiri population and to compare the same with the results from other parts of the world as well as within our own country.

Material and Methods:

The study group included 51,661 individuals of SMHS Hospital during past thirteen years. The blood was drawn by the Phlebotomist by standard procedure of vene-puncture and used for determination of ABO & Rh blood groups by gel technology. The frequency of phenotypes 'A', 'B', 'AB' and 'O', Rhesus positive and Rhesus negative were calculated. Blood was collected from both camps as well as from voluntary blood donors, donating blood in SMHS Hospital. The records were scrutinized for native population. The results were compared with other studies available from India and abroad.

Results:

Each sample of donors and recipients was labelled according to its phenotype as per ABO system and Rhesus positive or negative status was recorded. The prevalence of the phenotypes A, B, AB & O was calculated on donors blood and the results are presented in Table 1 (fig.1 & fig.2)

TABLE 2: Prevalence of phenotypes of ABO & Rh alleles

PHENOTYPE	NO. OF DONORS	PREVALENCE %
A	12,459	24.10
B	17,223	33.33
AB	3,523	6.80
O	18,456	35.70
RHESUS		
RHESUS POSITIVE	47047	91.06
RHESUS NEGATIVE	4614	8.93

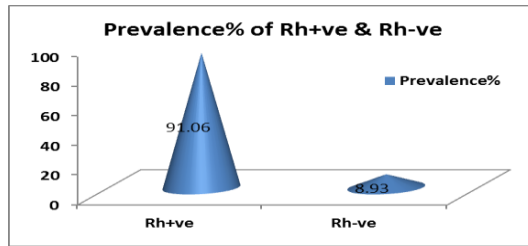


Figure 2.

TABLE 3: Prevalence of ABO/RHESUS Phenotypes

PHENOTYPE	NUMBER	PREVALENCE%
A+	11412	22.09
A-	1047	2.02
O+	16618	32.16
O-	1838	3.55
B+	15777	30.53
B-	1446	2.79
AB+	3240	6.27
AB-	283	0.54

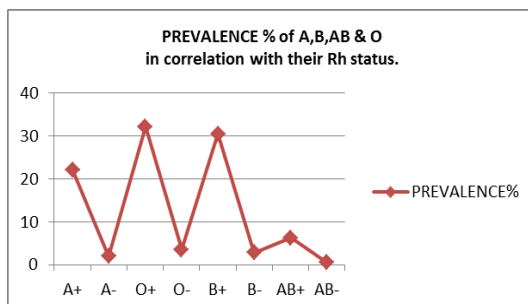


Figure 3.

The prevalence of the ABO phenotypes linked to the rhesus phenotype in our study group was O+ where almost 32.16% had this phenotype. This was followed by B+ve in 30.53%, A+ 22.09% and AB+ 6.27%. The lowest prevalence was that of AB-ve which was found to be 0.54% (Table 3, fig.3)

Discussion:

Research on ABO group system has been of immense interest due to its medical importance in different diseases. ABO blood group system is not only important in blood transfusions, cardiovascular diseases, organ transplantation, erythroblastosis in neonates but also one of the strongest predictors of national suicide rate and a genetic marker of obesity^{10,11}. A significant deficit of group O has suggested that there may be susceptibility to develop osteoarthritis in normal hip-joint and spinal osteochondrosis^{12, 13}. The genetic history of a person can be known by studying the blood groups¹⁴

This study has determined the distribution frequency of ABO and Rhesus blood groups in the native population of voluntary blood donors at one of the biggest hospital of the state. India is a country with a lot diversities based on race, religion and creed. Hence diversity has been observed in the distribution of blood groups in population within the country¹⁵. Study from south India¹⁶ showed that blood group 'O' was commonest (38.75%) followed by group B (32.69%), group A (18.85%) and AB (9.90%) with percentage of Rh +ve being 95.73% and Rh-ve being 4.27%. These results were comparable to the results of our study. Results from Jaunpur¹⁷ also showed the group O as most frequently occurring group with the incidence 30.40%, but it was followed by group A (23.50%) and the group B was the least occurring among all with the incidence of 2.004% only while as studies from Maharashtra¹⁸ have shown that blood group B to be commonest with the frequency of 33.06% followed by group O(31.04), groupA (27.02) and finally group AB(8.33) [table.4]

Another study conducted by Subhashini A.B¹⁹ in 2007 regarding prevalence of ABO & Rhesus groups in Pondicherry had shown that the commonest ABO blood group was group A, with a prevalence of 39.50% followed by blood group

‘O’(34.00%). This is in contrast to our study, though Kashmir also falls in northern India.

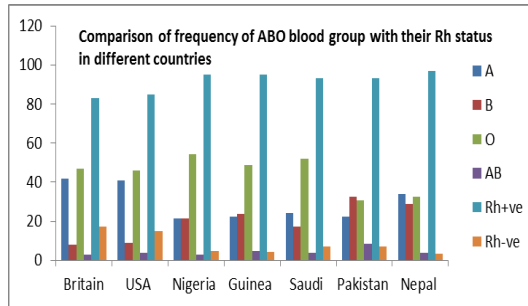
Comparing our results with those seen in other countries, Guinea and Nepal have a pattern that resembles ours while other countries like Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Britain and USA though had the O as the commonest group but next in frequency in descending order are the group A, group B and then AB respectively²¹.(Table.5, fig.4)

Table 4. Comparison of Frequency percentage of ABO and Rhesus blood group different areas of India

Population	A	B	O	AB	Rh+ve	Rh-ve
South India [16]	18.85	32.69	38.75	9.90	94.45	5.55
Urban area in Maharashtra [18]	27.02	33.06	31.04	8.33	95.73	4.27
Jaunpur [17]	23.50	2.004	30.40	4.00	97.00	3.00
Pondicherry [19]	39.50	20.50	34.00	6.50	93.50	6.50
Present study	24.10	33.33	35.70	6.80	91.06	8.93

Table. 5 Comparison of Frequency percentage of ABO and Rhesus blood group in different countries of the world²⁰

Population	A	B	O	AB	Rh+ve	Rh-ve
Britain	42.00	8.00	47.00	3.00	83.00	17.00
USA	41.00	9.00	46.00	4.00	85.00	15.00
Nigeria	21.60	21.40	54.20	2.80	95.20	4.80
Guinea	22.50	23.70	48.90	4.70	95.90	4.10
Saudi Arabia	24.00	17.00	52.00	4.00	93.00	7.00
Pakistan	22.40	32.40	30.50	8.40	93.00	7.00
Nepal	34.00	29.00	32.50	4.00	96.70	3.30



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