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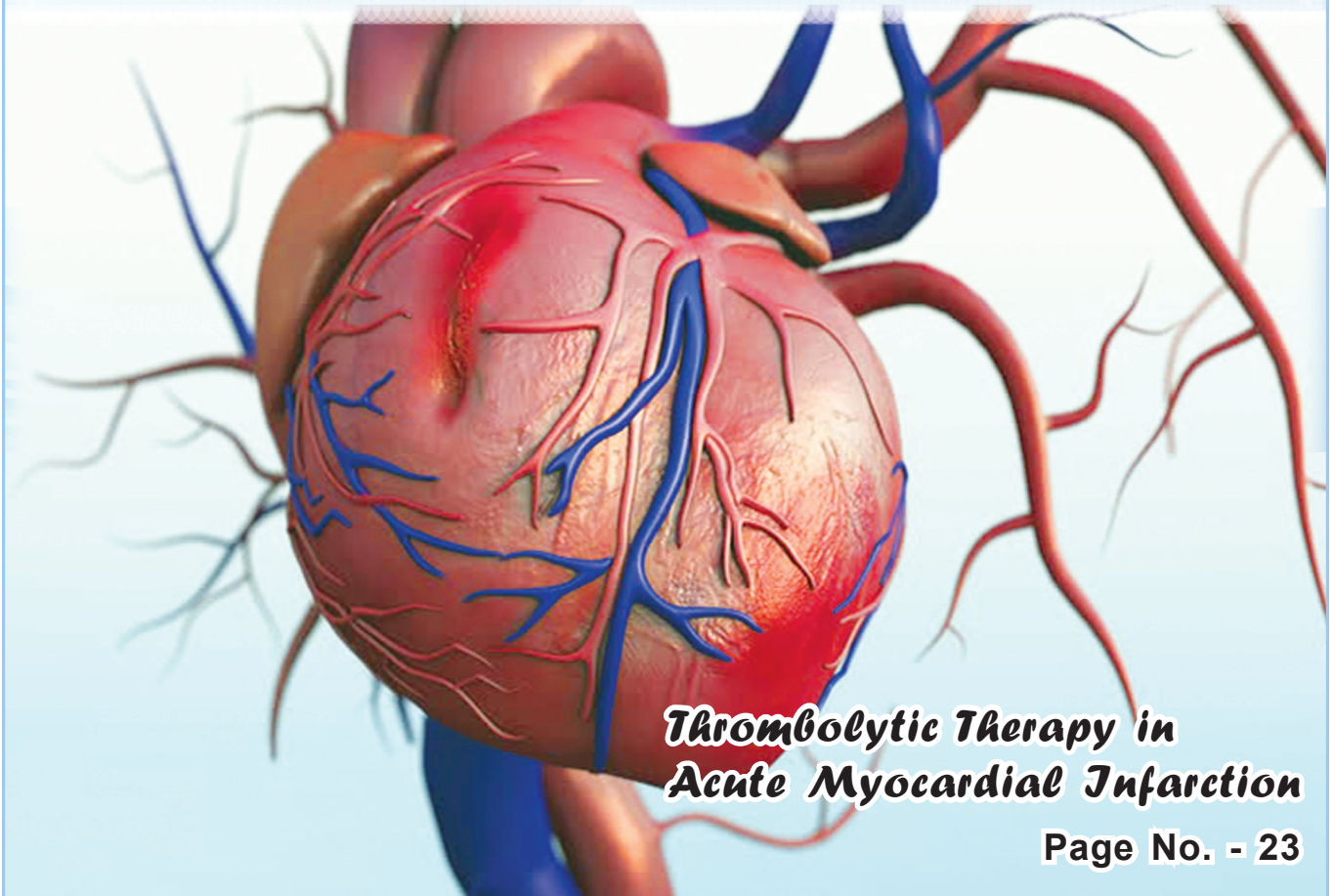
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***Thrombolytic Therapy in  
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# Types of Hepatitis

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Hepatitis B virus (HBV) is a small, circular and partially double-stranded deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) virus in the Hepadnaviridae family. Hepatitis refers inflammation of liver cells and finally getting damage to the liver. The functions of liver include detoxifying the blood, storing vitamins and producing hormones. Hepatitis can disrupt these processes and create severe health problems throughout the human body. There are many causes. Heavy alcohol use, toxins, some medications, and certain medical conditions can also be caused hepatitis. However, hepatitis is most often caused by a virus. The liver is a vital organ that processes nutrients, filters the blood, and fights infections. When the liver is damaged, its function can be affected. The most common types of viral hepatitis are Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C. Hepatitis A can last from a few weeks to several months. Hepatitis B can range from a mild illness, lasting few weeks to a serious life long or chronic condition. Hepatitis C also can range from a mild illness, lasting few weeks, to a serious life long infection. Most people who get infected develop chronic Hepatitis C.

Hepatitis A is spread when a person ingests fecal matter even in microscopic amounts from contact with objects, food or drinks contaminated by feces or stool from an infected person.

Hepatitis B spreads when blood, semen, or certain other body fluids from a person infected with the Hepatitis B virus even in microscopic amounts enters the body of someone who is not infected. The Hepatitis B virus can also be transmitted from birth to an infected mother; sex with an infected person; sharing equipment that has been contaminated with blood from an infected person, like tools of needles, syringes, medical equipment such as glucose monitors; sharing personal items such as toothbrushes or razors.

Hepatitis C is spread when blood from a person infected with the Hepatitis C virus even in microscopic amounts enters the body of someone who is not infected. This can happen through multiple ways of sharing equipment that has been contaminated with blood from an infected person, such as needles and syringes. There is no vaccine available for Hepatitis C. About 75 per cent to 85 per cent of people who get infected with the Hepatitis C virus develop a chronic infection; 5 per cent to 20 per cent of people with chronic Hepatitis C develop cirrhosis; and 1 per cent to 5 per cent will die from cirrhosis or liver cancer, according to report.

Many people with hepatitis do not have symptoms and do not know they are infected. If symptoms occur with an acute infection, they can appear anytime from 2 weeks to 6 months after exposure. Symptoms of hepatitis can include: fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, dark urine, grey coloured stools, joint pain and jaundice.

At least five viruses can cause hepatitis disease from these the three common are hepatitis viruses A, B and C. Each is caused by a different virus. All three types can be acute, lasting for 6 months or less, and types B and C can be chronic, lasting for longer. Each type has different characteristics and is transmitted in different ways, but symptoms tend to be more or less similar.

India has intermediate endemicity of Hepatitis B, with Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) prevalence between 2 per cent and 7 per cent among populations studied. The prevalence does not vary significantly by region in the country. The number of HBsAg carriers in India has been estimated to be over 40 million (4 crore). It has been estimated that, in India of the 25 million infants born every year, over one million run the lifetime risk of developing chronic HBV infection. Every year over 100,000 Indians die due to illnesses related to HBV infection, according to report.



The rare finding of colonic interposition between the liver and the right hemidiaphragm (chilaiditi sign) may present as a syndrome with mild to severe gastrointestinal symptoms including abdominal pain, constipation, bowel obstruction, volvulus or even ischemic bowel.

**Clinical Vignettes - Colon**

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