

LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
(1)	Sequence of primers used for PCR amplification of the NS5B of HCV	17
(2)	2 Cycle Sequencing Reaction Using Bigdye Terminator V 3.1 Cycle Sequencing Kit	18
(3)	Thermal profile of the cycle sequencing	18
(4)	Personal and socio-demographic risk factors	22
(5)	Major risk factors for HCV acquisition	28
(6)	Minor risk factors for HCV acquisition	30
(7)	Results of multiple step wise logistic regression analysis for risk factors of HCV infection among children	32
(8)	logistic regression of distribution of intra-familial transmission in families of index cases	34
(9)	Relation between co-infection rate and index gender	35
(10)	Relation between sib-sib co-infection rate and difference in age of infected siblings	39
(11)	Risk factors for intra-familial co-infection (contact risk factors)	45
(12)	Risk factors for intra-familial co-infection (eating habits risk factors)	46
(13)	Risk factors for intra-familial co-infection (risky behaviors for HCV co-infection)	47
(14)	Risk factors for intra-familial co-infection (direct exposure)	48
(15)	Results of multiple step wise logistic regression for risk factors of intra-familial co-infection	50
(16)	Results of sequencing of NS5B in six positive cases	51
(17)	Results of protein sequences of the 6 positive cases using BLASTx program	57

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
(1)	Prevalence of intra-familial co-infection in families of index cases	34
(2)	Relation between co-infection rate and index gender .	35
(3)	Relation between age of index case and co-infection rate	36
(4)	Relation between age of index case and co-infection type	37
(5)	Relation between sib-sib co-infection and difference in age of the infected siblings	38
(6)	Relation between sib-sib co-infection rate and difference in age of the infected siblings and number of siblings co-infected in the family	40
(7)	Results of sequencing of NS5B (Case 9)	53
(8)	Results of sequencing of NS5B (Case 2)	54
(9)	Results of sequencing of NS5B (Case 8)	54
(10)	Results of sequencing of NS5B (Case 6)	55
(11)	Results of sequencing of NS5B (Case 5)	55
(12)	Results of sequencing of NS5B (Case 4)	56
(13)	Tree view of the six positive cases using CLUSTAL W2 software, version 1.8	57

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ALT	:	Alanine amino-transferase (biochemical marker of liver inflammation)
Anti-HCV	:	Antibodies against HCV
CHC	:	Chronic hepatitis C infection
C.I	:	Confidence interval
ELISA	:	Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay
HCC	:	Hepatocellular carcinoma
HCV	:	Hepatitis C virus
HIV	:	Human immunodeficiency virus
HLA	:	Human leukocyte antigen
IDUs	:	Intravenous drug users
IFN- α	:	Interferon alfa
IgG	:	Immunoglobulin G
IgM	:	Immunoglobulin M
I.V.	:	Intravenous access
MCT	:	Maternal child transmission
O.R	:	Odds ratio
P	:	Probability of error
PCR	:	Polymerase Chain Reaction
r	:	Correlation co-efficient
RNA	:	Ribonucleic acid
STDs	:	Sexually transmitted diseases
SVR	:	Sustained virus response
USA	:	United States of America
WHO	:	World health organization