Community-wide outbreak of hepatitis A in Latvia in 2008

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Cases of Hepatitis A, Latvia, 1951 – 2008

695 cases or 100 cases per year
Number of reported cases of hepatitis A by month of onset, Latvia, November 2007–December 2008 (n=3,236)

- Cases under investigation on 31 December 2008 (n=419)
- Cases confirmed by 31 December (n=2,817)
Incidence rate of hepatitis A, by age and sex, Latvia, November 2007 - December 2008

Number of cases per 100,000 population

- Females
- Males
Incidence rate of hepatitis A among children and adults in different years in Latvia
Results of seroepidemiological studies of prevalence of antibodies to hepatitis A in different age groups in Latvia in 1998 (n=1172)
Proportion of cases of hepatitis A among adults and children by months, Latvia, April - December 2008
Proportion of cases of hepatitis A among males and females by months, Latvia, January - December 2008
Cases of hepatitis A among drug users and the proportion of drug users among all cases of hepatitis A, Latvia, December 2007 – December 2008

Number of cases among drug users (n=191)

% of drug users among cases
Number of death cases of hepatitis A by age and sex, Latvia, 2008 (n=17)
Causes of outbreak (1)

- A large number of susceptible individuals (young people) as the result of rapidly decreased exposure to hepatitis A virus
- The decrease of incidence of hepatitis A in 2000 – 2007 and lengthening of period between epidemic cycles can be explained by
  - Overall improvement in hygiene and
  - Rapid decrease of birth rate in 90-ies
Causes of outbreak (2)

- Initial spread of hepatitis A virus among IDUs – during the first months of the outbreak up to 35% of cases occurred in drug users
Causes of outbreak (3)

• Considerable proportion of persons of low socioeconomic status
  – Unemployed (42%)
  – Clusters in households in apartment houses

Aglona Street35/1. Photo R.Puriņš, “5min”
Causes of outbreak (4)

- A large outbreak (at least 47 cases) associated with a restaurant
Control measures and recommendations (1)

- In Latvia vaccination against hepatitis A is recommended but not refunded within the public health system
- Immunoglobulin as post-exposure prophylaxis has not been used for many years
Vaccination against hepatitis A (1th shot) by months Latvia, 2008
Control measures and recommendations (2)

- All notified hepatitis A cases are subject to epidemiological investigation
  - Epidemiologists of local branches of the Latvian Public Health Agency (PHA):
    - Interview patients or their relatives
    - Visit places of work or study of the patients (kindergartens, schools, food enterprises, etc.)
    - Collect epidemiological information
    - Organise control measures as medical observation
Control measures and recommendations (3)

- Information on preventive measures against hepatitis A is regularly disseminated via the mass media.
- Recommendations for inhabitants, food handlers, and staff of educational establishments have been prepared, distributed and also available on the PHA website (http://www.sva.gov.lv)
Infekcijas slimības

Infekcijas slimības apraksti, ietekmi un profilakses, infekcijas slimību statistika, epidemioloģijas bijenēni, informācija veselības aprēķinājumu, informācija ceļotajiem, informatīvie materiāli, projekti

Vakcinācija

Vakcinācijas kalendārs, informācija bērnu vecākiem par vakcināciju, pamesto vakcināciju, infekcijas slimības, pret kurām iepazīma vakcinācija, ceļojumu vakcinācija,

AIDS un STI profilaksē

HIV un STI apraksti un ietekmi un profilakses, izplatības vēsture, HIV/AIDS profilakse, HIV/AIDS izplatīšanās ierobežošana, informācija profesionāļiem, informatīvie materiāli, projekt

Ārkartas situācijas

Gripas pandēmija, bioloģiskā un kimiskā drošība, vadītāji, gatavība ārkartās situācijās, informācija profesionāļiem, informativie materiāli, projekt
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_Registretie A hepatīta gadījumi no 16. līdz 31.oktobrim Latvija_
Control measures and recommendations (4)

• Communication with School boards, Health Inspectorate, Food and Veterinary Service, schools and other establishments is taking place to disseminate information and recommendations on prevention of hepatitis A

• Seminars on hepatitis A prevention for healthcare workers including medical staff of educational establishments were organised
Viss ir tavās rokās!
Ja mīkrobi bītu redzamī,
Tu datēž biezāk mazgātu rokās!

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KLEPU
A HEPATĪTS
ANGINA
DIZENIERA
VIRUSU MĖNAUTS
KONJUKNĪTS

SVA
www.sva.gov.lv
Further steps

• It is important to further strengthen the prevention through communication with public, increase knowledge about vaccination

• To continue surveillance and control measures

• To exchange of information on international level
Cases of hepatitis A in Latvia, January – February, 2009

Number of cases

<table>
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<th>Weeks</th>
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Map of Latvia showing the distribution of hepatitis A cases.