Perspectives of
Viral Hepatitis Control

Academic session celebrating more than two decades of the VHPB
University of Antwerp 12 November

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Estimated global hepatitis deaths by virus type and disease outcome, 2010

Most deaths are due to chronic hepatitis B and C

Source: Global Burden of Disease Study 2010 Lozano et al, Lancet 2012
Burden of viral hepatitis in the European Region of WHO

• Estimated number of people living with infection\(^1\):
  – Hepatitis B - 13.3 million
  – Hepatitis C - 14 million
  – Over 60% infected live in eastern European and central Asian countries

• Estimated number of deaths due to viral hepatitis\(^2\):
  – 60,000 deaths due to Hep B annually
  – 84,000 death due to Hep C annually

\(^1\) V.D. Hope et al. / Epidemiol. Infect (2013) 1-17
\(^2\) Global Disease Burden Estimate
Hepatitis B and C among “most affected population groups”
WHO European Region, 2008

People who inject drugs: 15% (Hepatitis B), 44% (Hepatitis C)
Men who have sex with men: 9% (Hepatitis B), 4% (Hepatitis C)
Sex workers: 3% (Hepatitis B), 11% (Hepatitis C)
General population: 1.8% (Hepatitis B), 2% (Hepatitis C)

V.D. Hope et al. / Epidemiol. Infect (2013) 1-17
Viral Hepatitis recognized as a global public health problem

2010
World Health Assembly Resolution on Viral Hepatitis

2011
Establishment of Global Hepatitis Programme (GHP)

2012
Global Framework

2013
Reorganization of Global Hepatitis Programme

2014
WHA resolution
STAC-Hep Global Partners' Meeting

2015 (and beyond)
Implementation of Resolution And Global Action Plan

✓ Hep B immunization
✓ Blood/injection safety
✓ Outbreak control
✓ Water and sanitation
World Health Assembly Resolution 2104

- Develop comprehensive strategy for viral hepatitis prevention and control
- Designate 28 July as World Hepatitis Day
- Support integrated, cost-effective approach to Viral Hepatitis, considering linkages with HIV co-infection
- Promote access to preventive, diagnostic and treatment technologies against viral hepatitis
- Promote injection safety at all levels of national healthcare system
- Monitor progress and evaluate implementation
- Support scientific research
Global strategy for viral hepatitis prevention and control

- Goal: To develop a strategy that identifies priorities and sets global targets for a coordinated global response
- Will cover 2016-2020; to be presented at WHA in May 2016
- Regional consultation and stakeholder engagement as critical components
  - Discussion with Member States at the Regional Committees in 2014
- World Health Assembly discussion in May 2015/2016
- Discussion at the Regional Committee to define the regional context (possibly in 2015 / 2016)
Vision:
A world where viral hepatitis transmission is stopped and all have access to safe and effective care and treatment
Global Hepatitis Framework: Four Axes

Axis 1: Partnerships, resource mobilization and communication

Axis 2: Data for policy and action

Axis 3: Prevention of virus transmission

Axis 4: Screening, care and treatment
Partnerships, resource mobilization and communication
World Hepatitis Day: 28 July 2013
Global hepatitis network: members

Universities

WHO

UN Agencies

Civil Society

Development agencies

Collaborating Centers

Research Institutions

Professional organizations

Patient groups
Data for policy and action

- Global Policy Report
- Regional estimate of hepatitis B and C burden, 2013
- Routine Viral hepatitis surveillance:
  - Acute hepatitis surveillance is weak in many countries
  - Chronic hepatitis surveillance does not exist in the majority of low and middle-income countries
Prevention of virus transmission
Hepatitis B immunization

• European Vaccine Action Plan 2015-2020 endorsed by Regional Committee in September 2014:
  – “a European Region free of vaccine preventable diseases, where all countries provide equitable access to high quality, safe, affordable vaccines and immunization services through the life course”

• Successful prevention of HBV transmission through immunization programmes, however challenges remain

• Regional Hepatitis B Control Goal 2015-2020 (being developed)
Prevention of virus transmission
Blood safety and injection safety

• Policy guidance and technical assistance for;
  – universal access to safe blood and blood products
  – self-sufficiency in safe blood and blood products based on voluntary unpaid blood donation

• European Action Plan for HIV/AIDS, 2012-2015: to reduce HIV and viral hepatitis co-infection

• Promotion of harm-reduction guidance and services
Screening, care and treatment

• Major advances in treatment options
• Address pricing issues:
  – WHO Expert Committee will review HCV related medicines in April 2015
  – Analysis of patents situation (published in September 2014)
  – Evaluation of pharmaceutical products to treat HIV / HCV coinfection
Conclusions

- Successful prevention of HBV transmission through implementation of immunization programmes, however challenges remain to be addressed
- Using critical momentum to reinforce and scale up actions for prevention and control of viral hepatitis
  - World Health Assembly discussion on global viral hepatitis strategy (May 2015/2016)
  - Discussion at the Regional Committee to define the regional context (possibly in 2015 / 2016)
- Political commitment and resources for hepatitis prevention and control
- Increasing engagement through awareness and partnerships
- Supporting countries in development and implementation of coordinated multisectoral national strategies for prevention, diagnosis and treatment
Join our listserv
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Thank you...