The risk of transmission of viral hepatitis in health care settings

Tatiana Semenenko, Arpik Asratyan

Gamaleya National Research Center for Epidemiology and Microbiology, Moscow
Absolute number of hepatitis B and C cases in health care settings in the Russian Federation: 2006 - 2017

Hepatitis B

Hepatitis C

According to the data of Rospotrebnadzor in subjects of the Russian Federation (AIS Viral hepatitis, Reference center for monitoring of viral hepatitis)
The prevalence of acute and chronic hepatitis B and C in health care workers in Moscow 2017

The prevalence of acute hepatitis B in health care workers compared with the population of Moscow is 40% higher, and acute hepatitis C is higher by 3.1 times. The prevalence of chronic hepatitis B is lower by 24%, chronic hepatitis C is lower by 63%.

Assumed cause of such situation is an earlier detection of parenteral hepatitis in Moscow within health care workers, then in overall population.

According to FBUZ "Center for Hygiene and Epidemiology in Moscow"
Parenteral viral hepatitis in tuberculosis hospital

Hepatitis B and C markers detection frequency among the medical staff of a tuberculosis hospital (n=146)

- HBsAg: 2.1%
- Anti-HBs: 21%
- Anti-HBc: 11.1%
- Overall HBV markers: 34.2%
- Anti-HCV: 3.1%

The frequency of hepatitis B and C markers detection in the tuberculosis hospital in comparison to healthy population

- Tuberculosis patients (n=170):
  - Hep B: 45.9%
  - Hep C: 7.1%
- Medical staff (n=146):
  - Hep B: 34.2%
  - Hep C: 3.1%
- Healthy population (n=250):
  - Hep B: 15%
  - Hep C: 2%
Parenteral viral hepatitis in drug treatment hospital

Hepatitis B and C markers detection frequency among the medical staff of a drug treatment hospital (n=361)

The frequency of hepatitis B and C markers detection in the tuberculosis hospital and healthy population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Drug addicts</th>
<th>Medical staff</th>
<th>Healthy population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HBsAg</td>
<td>2,5</td>
<td>82,5</td>
<td>15,0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-HBs</td>
<td>74,5</td>
<td>97,5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-HBc</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>3,3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall HBV markers</td>
<td>79,5</td>
<td>79,5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-HCV</td>
<td>3,3</td>
<td>2,0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

%
The risk of hospital-acquired infection with parenteral hepatitis viruses depends on:

- art and urgency of medical care
- non-compliance with personal safety rules in case of work with infectious materials
- proportion of HBV and HCV infected patients in health facilities
- epidemic risk in individual methods of treatment and diagnosis, due to technical features of equipment
- violations of disinfection and sterilization rules
- maintenance of minimal risk of infection with HBV and HCV during blood transfusions

Risk of infection with hepatitis viruses in medical facility

- Hospitalization of infected patients
  - Contact at nosocomial displacements
  - Contact at joint stay in the ward
  - Plural manipulations with tools of multiple use
  - High injection load
  - Some probability of infection of blood products
- Potential risk of infection of medical staff
  - Infected care workers
- Risk of infection of an intact patient
Infection of medical personnel depending on professional duties (n=238).

The frequency of detection of HBV markers in nurses of different profiles (n=184).
Classification of biological fluids potentially transmitting viruses of hepatitis B, C, D и G

(OSHA classification system)

- blood, blood components, blood products
- sperm and vaginal secrets
- cerebrospinal, pleural, pericardial, synovial, peritoneal and other fluids
- biological fluids contaminated with blood (urine, vomit, sputum, etc.)

In group of patients with destructive forms of tuberculosis, blood in sputum was found in 100% of cases. HBV DNA and HCV RNA were found in 15%.

It is established that sputum can serve as a transfer factor not only for Mycobacterium tuberculosis, but also HBV and HCV.

Thus, there is a possibility of the natural way of transmission of these infections in nosocomial foci.
Prevention

Specific (vaccination)
Hepatitis B

Non-specific (universal measures)
Hepatitis B
Hepatitis C
The detection frequency of postvaccinal HBV antibodies in medical personnel, depending on the time of vaccination

**Tuberculosis hospital**  
(n=146)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interval</th>
<th>1 year</th>
<th>2-5 years</th>
<th>6-10 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seronegative</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seropositive</td>
<td>84.2%</td>
<td>76.9%</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-199 nME/ml</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200-5000 nME/ml</td>
<td>43.8%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;5000 nME/ml</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Narcological hospital**  
(n=361)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interval</th>
<th>1 year</th>
<th>2-5 years</th>
<th>6-7 years</th>
<th>8-15 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seronegative</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
<td>23.0%</td>
<td>30.9%</td>
<td>34.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seropositive</td>
<td>86.8%</td>
<td>77.0%</td>
<td>69.1%</td>
<td>65.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>2-5 years</td>
<td>6-7 years</td>
<td>8-15 years</td>
<td></td>
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METHODICAL INSTRUCTIONS MI 3.1.2792-103.1.

PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE OF HEPATITIS B

Revaccinations against Hepatitis B every 5 years is a subject to health care workers who have received a full course of vaccination, by introducing one booster dose of the vaccine according to the instructions for its use.

Revaccination against HBV every 3 years is a subject to hemodialysis patients who have received a full course of vaccination, by introducing one booster dose of the vaccine containing twice the amount of the antigen.
Prevention of hepatitis C virus infection in health care

8.4. Cases of hepatitis C virus infection can be considered to be associated with medical care in the following case:

detection of epidemiological connection between cases of hepatitis C using molecular biological analysis (genotyping, sequencing of variable regions of the HCV genome) of blood sera (plasma) samples from the patient and persons considered as a source of infection in the presence of a mandatory comparison group
Algorithm of analysis of the epidemiological relationship between infection cases with HCV and HBV

1. Collection of blood plasma samples of patients with HBV/HCV, presumably epidemiologically related (experimental group)
2. Detection of pathogen NA in samples
3. Identification of the virus genotype (subtype)
4. Selection of a comparison group that is not epidemiologically related to the experimental group, but with identical genotype (subtype) and place of residence
5. Sequencing of the hypervariable region of the virus genome isolated from the samples of experimental and control groups
6. Phylogenetic analysis of sequenced sequences

Chulanov V.P., 2017
Conclusion

- The strategic objective of health care is to ensure the quality of medical care and create a safe environment for patients and staff in organizations engaged in medical activities;

- Hepatitis B and C continue to be occupational diseases of health care workers;

- An effective measure of prevention of hepatitis B is vaccination;

- Universal prevention measures are the basis for protecting patients and health care workers from HCV infection;

- The use of molecular biological methods allows to confirm or refute the hypothesis of epidemiological connection of hepatitis B or C cases in health care settings.

- Prevention strategies should be encouraged in order to eliminate or minimize transmission risks.