



Viral Hepatitis situation in Kosovo

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Prevention and control of Viral Hepatitis in Albania and the neighbouring
countries: lessons learnt and the way forward

Tirana, October 2016



Hepatitis Prevalence/incidence in Kosovo

	Hep A	Hep B (HBsAg)	Hep D	Hep C	Hep E
General population	81% (1) 88.6% (2)	2.9% (1) 2.4% (2)	0% (1)	0.7% (1) 0.5% (2)	2.5% (1)
Blood donors	-	4.2% (3)		0.3% (3)	
Pregnant women	-	-		-	-
Risk groups					
IDU		4.1% - 6.0% (4)		26.7% - 37.4% (4)	
MSM		2.2% - 5.6% (4)		0.1% (4)	
Migrants					
Healthcare workers		-			
Dialysis patients		5% (5)		53% (5)	



Kosovo: Hepatitis burden of disease



- Hepatitis A virus transmission pattern related with low sanitary conditions;
- HBV and HCV transmission probably linked with contaminated blood through different procedures (including medical intervention);
- Data availability on viral hepatitis is limited at this moment in different groups of population and in quality;



Screening recommended in following groups:



	Hep B (Yes/No) (if yes, who is screened)	Hep C (Yes/No) (if yes, who is screened)
General population	No	No
Blood donors	Yes	Yes
Pregnant women	No	No
Risk groups:		
Injecting drug users	Yes	Yes
STI clinic patients	No	No
Haemodialysis patients	Yes	Yes
Health care workers	No	No
Men having sex with men	Yes	Yes
Prison population	No	No
Migrants	No	No
others		





Prevention and vaccination programs

Hepatitis A	Yes/no	Target <small>(who is vaccinate + age (if relevant))</small>	Since/period
Universal	No		
Risk groups	No		
Hepatitis B			
Universal	Yes	All newborns	2003
Catch-up	No		
Risk groups	No		

Other programs:





Treatment Hepatitis B/C

	Hepatitis B	Hepatitis C
Are there national treatment guidelines for clinicians available	No	No
How many patients need treatment	200	50
How many patients are currently treated	35 100	15
Which medication is available on the market	Pegylated interferon (MoH) Tenofovir (MoH) Lamivudin (bought privately)	Peginterferon alfa2a (MoH) Ribavirin Harvoni (only 3 cases; bought privately)



Kosovo: National hepatitis plan



- There is no Kosovo hepatitis plan in place
- Few attempts have been made in establishing a working group with the aim to develop an Hepatitis C action plan but did not resulted in concrete action;





References

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