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What still needs to be done in the prevention and control of hepatitis: east group

• Review of the post-its
  – Address vaccine hesitancy groups
    • religious groups;
    • sometimes HCW are hesitant
      – Need for better educational programmes at (para)medical schools, pre- and in-training programmes
  – Address the issue of booster dose
  – Address the situation of infected HCW
  – Address the immunization of HCW
  – Address the role of mutants vis-à-vis treatment and risk to universal immunization programme
What still needs to be done in the prevention and control of hepatitis: east group

• Review of the post-its
  – Low awareness of viral hepatitis in the general public
    • Importance of social mobilization
    • Education programmes
  – Access to treatment
  – Cost of treatment
  – Need for guidelines for hepB and C treatment
  – Stigmatization of risk groups in some countries
    • Disclose your health situation to survive/ be treated!
What still needs to be done in the prevention and control of hepatitis: east group

• Review of the post-its
  – Need for infection control plan in some countries
  – Need for better case management
    • Currently not affordable
    • “why screening if you cannot offer treatment”
  – Perception of HBV vaccines being ‘tested’ on the local population!
    • Need a lot of communication efforts
  – Need for vaccination programmes in other risk groups than HCW
    • Most HCW vaccinated but sometimes ‘false’ contra-indications
    • Some key opinion leaders/journalists can be very influential, not always in the advantages of the control of viral hepatitis
  – Document cost of disease versus control/treatment in each country
What still needs to be done in the prevention and control of hepatitis: east group

– Need for a country hepatitis plan addressing a lot of these issues!
  • Some countries have a plan, but no funding!
  • Plans are sometimes incomplete!
What do you expect from the international organisation: east group

• Expect guidance in what needs to be done in the respective countries
  – What kind of studies to document the burden!
  – Assistance in infection control plan
  – How to link hepatitis B and C prevention/ control with other control strategies (like for HIV).
  – educate the country about existing evidence on e.g. booster, mutant issues, treatment, ...
What do you expect from the international organisation: east group

• Expect guidance in what needs to be done in the respective countries
  – Lobby with MOH to better highlight the importance of viral hepatitis
  – Assist in negotiations with industry for better prizes in the Region
  – Technical assistance
    • E.g. in sero-surveys, workshops with WHO, VHPB experts

• Assist country in fundraising
What do you expect from the international organisation: east group

- Expect same importance for viral hepatitis, as for polio, measles, influenza ... from WHO level
- Expect from ECDC more attention towards viral hepatitis....
  - How important is viral hepatitis for ECDC (compared to vector borne diseases?)
- Have VHPB meetings in the east group region to raise awareness, teach/inform colleagues, assist in the country plan!
THANK YOU