POST-IT @ VHPB MEETING ANTWERP 2014
ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES IN PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF VIRAL HEPATITIS
East challenges

- Risk group vaccination problems
- Problems of anti-vaccine lobby
- Importance of HBV mutants in vaccination
- Clarify the need of hepatitis B booster
- Importance of HCW vaccination
- Infected HCWs, possible source of infection. What to do?
- Hepatitis C treatment and treatment as prevention
- Very limited access to anti-viral treatment of chronic hep C
- Stigma
- Effective screening management/ regional population based surveys
- Improve surveillance system for chronic viral hepatitis
- Low awareness of viral hepatitis in public
East Achievements

• Dramatically decrease of incidence of acute hep B
• High coverage of universal vaccination in WHO-Euro region
• Big success of lobby for universal vaccination of infants
• Blood transfusion safety
Middle - challenges

• Sustainability of vaccine supply/coverage rates/sero-prevalence
• Consequences of screening, NO screening without treatment options?
• Focus on primary prevention lost
• Power quality of surveillance systems/data
• Few programmes towards prisoners who are at high risk group
• Difficult to reach population (PWID – Migrants)
• Access to treatment priority for certain groups, waiting time for care
• Lack of communication between experts in prevention/vaccinology /clinical care/treatment
• Price of treatment
• Vaccine/drug production: free market vs state governmental control
• Access to hep C drugs
• Hep C screening: public health: population screening without any follow-up plan = bad medicine / un-ethical
• legislation: no population screening without scientific advise. Target population must be offered something perceived valuable.
Middle Achievements

• Immunization programmes in most countries
• Growing cohort of immune children and ado’s
• HBV = model for introduction of other vaccines in schools and ado’s
• Awareness about hepatitis burden
Nord - challenges

- Ensuring access to low threshold services
- Hep B: address new diagnostic tools (PCR)
- Secure access to treatment i.e. Tools for referrals form primary care
- Guidance patients with occult hep B
- Board dissemination of meeting reports
- How measure impact?
- How to encourage more active participating of people attending VHPB meeting (moderated email comments)
Nord - achievements

• Huge info resource created on website and print
South- challenges

• To work for eradication of hepatitis A
• To enhance surveillance of chronic hepatitis
• Under-reporting of chronic hepatitis B and C
• HCW vaccination
• Economic crisis and sustained high vaccination coverage
• To work for eradication of Hepatitis B
South- Achievements

VHPB
• Multicultural group
• Help lobbying in specific countries
• Including advocacy groups in VHPB
• Very good technical meetings
• Website with a lot of information
• Meetings in countries gathering experts, not done by others

General
• Sustained high vaccine coverage for HBV
• Excellent coverage with hepatitis B vaccine
• Good surveillance system on acute hepatitis
• Good expertise at the country level on all aspects of viral hepatitis
Health organisations- challenges

- Access to diagnostics and treatment
- A good surveillance system in every country
- Destigmatization
- Resources
- Lack of national policies and strategies for hepatitis
- Implementation of worn reduction strategies
- Awareness amongst:
  - Health care workers
  - Target groups
  - Policy makers
- Access to care and treatment for every patient
- Stigmatization + discrimination of ‘risk groups’: IDU’s, MSM
- Political commitments
- Ethics of hep B and C screening if you can't afford to treat patients
Health organisations - challenges

- Viral hepatitis prevention in displaced populations: refugees, newly independent states (eastern Ukraine and South Ossetia)
- Viral hepatitis prevention for migrants
- Role of criminalization of drug use as an impediment to public health control (harm reduction)
- Build on lessons learned from GAVI to improve access to HCV and HBV therapy
- Re-discuss definition for surveillance of chronic diseases
- Improving the quality of laboratory testing to test and monitor treatment outcomes
- The role at anti-viral medications in prevention. Cure as prevention for IDU population as for HCV
Health organisations - challenges

• Availability of needle exchange programs
• National hepatitis action plan in every country
• Lack of surveillance
• Political commitments
• Technical support for countries wishing to do sero-surveys to determine prevalence of HBsAg in Children
• Pricing of treatment
Health organisations - Achievements

Successful programmes
Viral hepatitis on the agenda of WHO
Increased awareness on burden of hepatitis