

**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 of 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