Prevention and Control of Viral Hepatitis Infection: WHO Framework for Global Action

Dr. Stefan Wiktor, Team Lead
Viral hepatitis at WHO: a historical perspective

May 2010 WHA resolution

Dec 2011 GHP created
• 2010 World Health Assembly resolution 63.18:
  – Sponsored by Brazil, Columbia, and Indonesia
  – Call for comprehensive approach to hepatitis prevention and control

• Mandate to WHO:
  – Mobilize support
  – Develop guidelines and strategies for surveillance, prevention and control of viral hepatitis
  – Improve global prevalence and disease-burden estimates
  – Support development of scientific research
  – Strengthen WHO Safe Injection Global Network
WHO Viral Hepatitis Programme

• Created December 2011

• Develop Framework for Prevention and Control of Viral Hepatitis Infection:
  – Vision: A world where viral hepatitis transmission is stopped and all have access to safe and effective care and treatment
  – Goals to:
    • reduce the transmission of hepatitis-related viruses
    • reduce the morbidity and mortality due to viral hepatitis and improve the care of patients with viral hepatitis
    • reduce the socio-economic impact of viral hepatitis at individual, community and population levels
WHO-HQ Viral Hepatitis Team

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Prevention & Control of Viral Hepatitis Infection:

Framework for Global Action

Available at: http://www.who.int/csr/disease/GHP_framework.pdf
Global Hepatitis Framework

Axis 1: Partnerships, resource mobilization and communication

Axis 2: Data for policy and action

Axis 3: Prevention of virus transmission

Axis 4: Screening, care and treatment
Axis 1: Increasing engagement through awareness, partnerships and mobilizing resources

Increasing awareness among policy makers, health professionals, and the public about viral hepatitis

- Support for World Hepatitis Day
- Viral Hepatitis Network: Establish global network of collaborating centres and civil-society associations for viral hepatitis prevention and control
- Mobilize resources
  - WHO
  - Countries with limited resources
World Hepatitis Day
28 July

Don’t let hepatitis tear your life apart. Know it. Confront it.

www.worldhepatitisday.info

World Health Organization

WOL HEPATITIS DEI 28 JULAE

KATEM HEPATITIS B LONG 2012

Hemi IMPORTANT blong Stikim pokinini taem hemi born.
Hemi givim Laef proteksen

MOH

WHO
Axis 2: Evidence-based policy and data for action

Increase collection, analysis of data:

• Publish global prevalence and burden estimates for viral hepatitis

• Develop:
  – Guidelines for hepatitis surveillance in low-income countries
  – Monitoring and evaluation framework

• Conduct country hepatitis burden-of-disease and hepatitis response workshops
Global prevalence of chronic hepatitis B virus infection, 2005, adults (19-49 years)

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

HBsAg Prevalence
- <2% -- Low
- 2-4% -- Low intermediate
- 5-7% -- High intermediate
- ≥ 8% -- High
- Not applicable

Data Source: refer to datamodels described in manuscript
Map Production: Public Health Information and Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
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Axis 3: Prevention of virus transmission

• Promote expansion of immunization:
  – Protection of newborns, health-care workers, and high-risk groups against hepatitis B
  – Promote innovative approaches for the future

• Promote behavioral and structural interventions:
  – Safer sex
  – Safe and rational use of injections
  – Safe blood transfusion
  – ensuring safe food and water for countries and on proper disposal of sanitary waste
Hepatitis B infant immunization: A well accepted strategy that works!

Figure 1.
Future deaths prevented through continuous investments into routine immunization programmes

Source: WHO Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals, 2010 and Investing in Immunisation through the GAVI Alliance, 2011
Axis 4: Screening, care and treatment

- Advocate for better data on burden of disease
- Develop treatment guidelines
- Prequalify diagnostics
- Prequalify therapeutics
- Develop training tools
- Advocate/negotiate for drug and reagent price reductions
- Assist countries in developing national strategies
Timeline of development of WHO hepatitis C screening, care, and treatment guidelines

- **Submit proposal to GRC**
  - Oct 2012
- **Guidelines Development Group Meeting-1**
  - Dec 2012
- **Guideline Development Group meeting-2**
  - May 2013
- **Systematic Reviews**
  - Guidelines draft, review and clearance
  - Jun-Sep 2013

Hepatitis B Treatment Guidelines

World Health Organization
Working together with WHO-Global Hepatitis Programme

Hepatitis WHO Collaborating Centers

WHO-HQ GHP

WHO Viral Hepatitis Network

WHO Regional Office

Country WHO office

Country MOH

Hepatitis WHO Collaborating Centers

WHO-HQ Hepatitis Action Group

World Health Organization
Global Hepatitis Network Organizational Meeting
Izmir Turkey, October 2012
Conclusions: Challenges and opportunities

- Increasing ‘buzz’ around hepatitis
- Huge mandate – small team, few resources
- Hepatitis control is cross-cutting
- Fast changing landscape
Strengthening WHO Global Hepatitis Programme

• **Staffing needs**
  – Surveillance officer
  – Treatment officer
  – External relations/fund raising

• **Funding needs**
  – Country burden of disease workshops
  – Laboratory work: prequalification of diagnostics
  – Prequalification of biosimilars
  – Development of training tools
Thank you