



Viral Hepatitis

Challenges for viral hepatitis prevention in Latin American

Laura Alves de Souza

Technical Advisor

Department of STDs, AIDS, and Viral Hepatitis

Secretariat of Health Surveillance

Ministry of Health of Brazil



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Viral Hepatitis in Latin American and Caribbean: A Public Health Challenge



- ✓ One in three people on earth has been exposed to hepatitis B or C viruses (HBV and HCV);
- ✓ HBV and HCV are responsible for 57% of cirrhosis and 78% of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) globally;
- ✓ Hepatitis E virus (HEV) has been identified as the most common cause of acute VH.
- ✓ Annual deaths are estimated at 340 000 for hepatitis A virus (HAV), 500.000–700.000 for HBV, > 350 000 for HCV and 68 000 for HEV;



Hepatitis B

- ✓ Prevalence varies (2005)
 - 2% in Central and Tropical Latin America,
 - 2 - 4% in the Caribbean, Andean and Southern Latin American



Hepatitis C

- ✓ LAC: 7 - 9 million adults
- ✓ Highest Prevalence ($\geq 2.5\%$): Grenada, Bolivia, Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago and El Salvador

Rev Panam Salud Publica. 2013 Oct;34(4):275-81.

Viral hepatitis in Latin America and the Caribbean: a public health challenge.
[Díez-Padrís N1, Castellanos LG; PAHO Viral Hepatitis Working Group.](#)



Hepatitis A

- ✓ 2005: Andean Latin America (96%)
- ✓ Caribbean (57%)

Hepatitis D

- ✓ Amazonia
- ✓ Colombia: 5,2% (HBV among HDV)

Hepatitis E

- ✓ Lowest (Brazil 3% in adults) highest (Bolivia 1.7% to 16.2%)





Hepatitis A

Faecal-oral

Ingesting food or drinks

Intimate physical contact*

Hepatitis B

Mother to child (areas high endemicity)

Sexual transmission

Use of contaminated needles

People who use drugs (PWUD)

Hepatitis C

PWUD

Hospital infection (hemodialysis)

Sharp instruments

Hepatitis E

Faecal-oral route due to faecal

Contamination of drinking water.

Foodborne transmission from ingestion of products derived from infected animals;

Transfusion of infected blood;

Vertical transmission



- ✓ **Programs LAC**
 - STD, HIV/Aids and Viral hepatitis and
 - Individual approaches;
- ✓ **Hepatitis B:** vaccination schedules LA;
- ✓ **Neonatal vaccine (HBV):** 13 countries LA and territories;
- ✓ **Hepatitis A:** vaccination incorporated (Argentina, Panama and Uruguay);
- ✓ **Donated blood units:** 2009 screening in LA (HBV and HCV)



✓ Accidental Needlestick Injuries *

- Hepatitis 65% - 80%
- Hepatitis C 55%

✓ People who use drugs *

- Hepatitis B: 63.9%
- Hepatitis C: 55.8%
- Brazil: 97,5%
- Mexico: 85%
- Brazil, 2013: Prevalence VHB and VHC almost 2,5% among non injectable (CRACK, COCAINE) users.

* *Highest prevalence found in some studies*

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✓ Co-infection HIV and Hepatitis B and C *

➤ Brazil: HBV ~ 70%

HCV ~ 55%

✓ Indigenous populations *

➤ Amazonia

➤ Horizontal transmission, living conditions, close contact with body fluids or skin lesions, and social practices (possible transmission)

* *Highest prevalence found in some studies*

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Challenges of prevention WHO/PAHO



- ✓ **Expand hepatitis B vaccine;**
 - Brazil: 0 – 49 years
 - Vulnerable population
- ✓ **Introduce neonatal hepatitis B vaccine**
 - Brazil: new strategy, 2013
- ✓ **Prevention of Vertical Transmission**



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Challenges of prevention WHO/PAHO



- ✓ Safety practices promoted among health workers and other



- ✓ Increase the number of VH prevention actions, reaching all at-risk populations

- HIV patients
- Indigenous populations
- Baby boomers
- Sex workers
- MSM
- PWUD
- Prisoners





- ✓ Introduce HAV vaccine in countries changing from high to intermediate endemicity;
- ✓ Control programs for polytransfused patients;
- ✓ Use WHO and PAHO strategies, guidelines and recommendations;
- ✓ Harm reduction projects for PWUD;
- ✓ Link prevention and care ever;
- ✓ *More studies may be needed to consider TASP*





- ✓ Colleagues
 - Marcela
 - Fernanda
 - Cristina
 - Lúcio
 - ASCOM





Thank you!

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