MIGRATION AND HEPATITIS: a screening challenge

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MIGRATION AND HEPATITIS

Concern about migration and viral hepatitis:

- Pace of diagnosed HBV and HCV growing
- In EU most new cases linked to foreign-born
- UK HBV Found.- doubling of Hep B in 5 years
- 50% from Africa, Asia, Russia, new EU states
- Similar trends in other EU countries likely
MIGRATION AND HEPATITIS

how big a migrant issue are we talking about:

• officially almost 300 million worldwide
• in reality well over 1,000 million
• in EU as a whole over 10 million officially
• with “irregular” migrants over 20 million
• increasing number of “circular” migrants
MIGRATION AND HEPATITIS

- people on long term contracts
- people on intending to stay
- people on short term contracts
- asylum seekers
- refugees
- irregular migrants
MIGRATION AND HEPATITIS

people from high ses backgrounds
people from low ses backgrounds
people who understand health risks
people who cannot be easily “reached”
people who can be easily “reached”
people who do not understand health risks

who are migrants?
MIGRATION AND HEPATITIS

- people from low HBV/HCV backgrounds
- people from unknown HBV/HCV backgrounds
- people from high HBV/HCV backgrounds
- people from intermediate HBV/HCV backgrounds

who are migrants?
SCREENING DILEMMA

- people from high prev. countries?
- people from low prev. countries?
- people from intermediate prev. countries?
- who to screen?
- no one?
- people from all countries?
SCREENING DILEMMA

- people on long term contracts?
- people on intending to stay?
- people on short term contracts?
- people with high risk behavior?
- refugees and asylum seekers?
- irregular migrants?
SCREENING DILEMMA

when to screen?

before departure?

on arrival?

during travel?

after arrival and when?

how often after arrival?
SCREENING DILEMMA

- better risk analysis
- robust standardised screening methods
- evidence-based timing
- ethical screening and treatment follow-up