Primary and secondary prevention of HBV and HCV infections in health-care workers. Should patients be tested before undergoing invasive procedures?

Virus Hepatitis Prevention Board
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Should patients be tested before undergoing invasive procedures?

- Is the answer NO ?
- No recommendations requesting that
- No public health rationale established

- Is the answer YES?
- Who has an interest/benefit in testing?
Potential of HCW to transmit HBV


[Graph showing seroprevalence of HBsAg and anti-HBc in HCW across different countries]
Evidence for transmission of HBV to Patients by HCW:

- Review by Gunson, Shouval, Roggendorf et al. (2003): 45 published reports with more than 400 infected patients

- Review by Gerlich et al. (2004): HCW with pos HBeAg transmit to 4 % of patients, when performing procedures with high risks of injuries
Patients tested for HBV:

Baldo et al. (2002, Italy):
Postexposure HCW: source 245 patients:
11.4 % HBV pos.; 5 year follow up: no transmission observed
Patients tested for HBV:

- Beltrami et al. (2000, USA): Risk for HCW after percutaneous exposure is 6 - 30% for HBV
- Dresing et al. (2003, Germany): Emergency room patients: 0.84% of patients HBV pos. (n = 1.074)
Potential of HCW to transmit HCV
Evidence for transmission of HCV to Patients by HCW:

- Review by Gunson, Shouval, Roggendorf et al. (2003):
  6 published reports with a total of 14 indefected patients

- Review by Puro, Scognamiglio, Ippolito (2003):
  8 cases with a total of 18 infected patients
Patients tested for HCV:

- **Baffoy-Fayard et al. (2003; France):**
  Interventional radiology: 9.7% of patients HCV pos. (n = 944)

- **Baldo et al. (2002, Italy):**
  Postexposure HCW: source 245 patients: 27.8% HCV pos.; 5 year follow up: no transmission observed
Patients tested for HCV:

- Beltrami et al. (2000, USA):
  Risk for HCW after percutaneous exposure is 1.8% for HCV

- Dresing et al. (2003, Germany):
  Emergency room patients: 2.9% of patients HCV pos. (n = 1.074)
Should patients be tested before undergoing invasive procedures?

- Patient with pos. Test results can be referred to proper treatment
- Patient with neg. test result can proof a nosocomial transmission in case this occurs
- Hospital obtains data for medico legal reasons to proof the non-transmission by its services
- HCW like to know to adapt their behaviour