



Surveillance, epidemiology and prevention of Hepatitis A in Luxembourg

Results of the EUROHEP.NET feasibility survey

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COUNTRY CHARACTERISTICS¹

- Total population: 447000
- GDP per capita (Intl \$, 2001): 48,665
- Life expectancy at birth m/f (years): 75.7/81.7
- Health expenditure/capita (Intl \$, 2001): 2,905
- Health expenditure as % of GDP (2001): 6.0

OBJECTIVES and METHODS

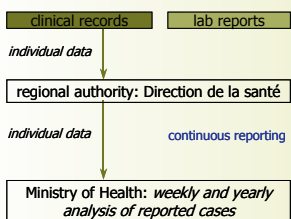
The EUROHEP.NET project is a EU concerted action, supported by the Quality of Life Programme of the fifth framework of the European Community for research. This project addresses issues related to surveillance and prevention of hepatitis A and B in the EU countries, Associated States and Israel. The overall goal is to study the feasibility of a future network on surveillance and prevention and to facilitate the progress of these countries towards enhanced control of hepatitis A and B.

Early 2003, EUROHEP.NET sent a feasibility survey to all participating countries to take stock of the country-specific surveillance and prevention activities for hepatitis A and B. The first achievement of this EU concerted action is to provide in a standardized/comparative way an overview of the different surveillance systems, epidemiology, burden of disease and prevention programmes for these infectious diseases.

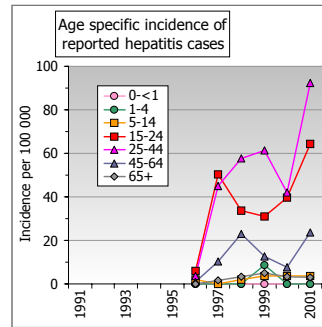
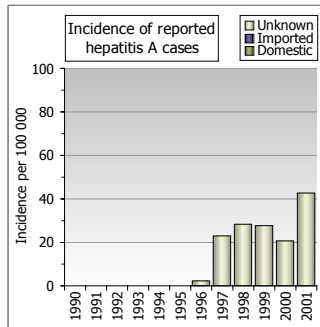
SURVEILLANCE

Surveillance system	Since 1984
mandatory reporting	yes
voluntary reporting	no
sentinel	no
laboratory	no

Flow chart of the surveillance system



EPIDEMIOLOGY



CASE DEFINITION

EC case definition will be used in the future, currently no definition is used.

- Definition of an **outbreak**: two or more cases with a link.

BURDEN OF DISEASE²

Acute hepatitis A	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Hospitalised cases/100 000 inhabitants					
Hospitalisation days per case					
Deaths					
Mortality (total number of deaths per 100 000)					
Total number of liver transplants					

Outbreaks of hepatitis A: 1997-201: one outbreak

COMMENTS

- Surveillance for hepatitis A is mandatory and passive.
- A case definition will be used in the near future.
- Hepatitis A is not considered as an endemic disease in Luxembourg.
- There is no universal vaccination programme, but some risk groups are recommended for vaccination.

PREVENTION by active immunisation

Risk group programmes	Available since
injecting drug users	no
men who have sex with men	no
international travellers to endemic areas	yes
chronic liver disease patients	yes
clotting factors disorder patients	no
medical and paramedical personnel in hospitals including kitchen staff and cleaners	yes
people residing in areas of extended community outbreaks	no
pre-school children attending day care centres	no
day care centre personnel	no
residents and staff of closed communities (Psychiatric Institutions and Institutions for mentally disabled)	no
refugees residing in temporary camps	no
food-service establishment workers/food handlers	no
household contacts of infected persons	yes
children of migrants visiting an endemic country of origin	no
other risk groups	no

FOOTNOTES

- Country characteristics: www.who.int/country/en/
Figures are for 2002 unless indicated. Source: the World health report 2003 (derived April 2004).
- The data source on hospital admission is not available. The data source related to mortality is 'Regime des décès' but the data are not available in the survey.