



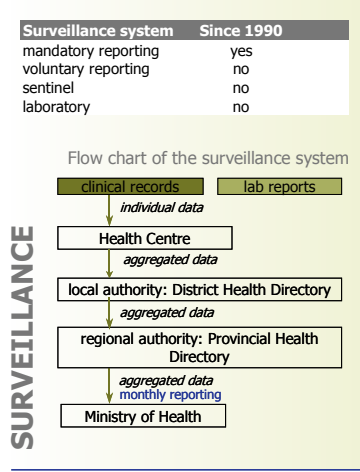
Surveillance, epidemiology and prevention of Hepatitis B in Turkey

Results of the EUROHEP.NET feasibility survey

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CASE DEFINITION

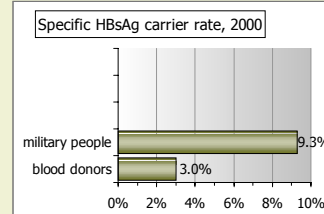
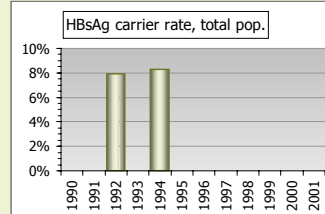
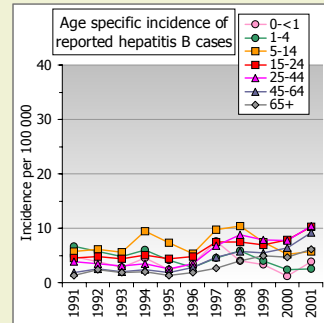
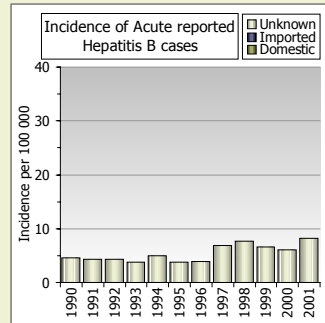
- EU Hepatitis B case definition is used:
- Probable:** clinical picture compatible with hepatitis (e.g. discrete onset of symptoms and jaundice or elevated serum aminotransferase levels) and HBsAg positive.
- Confirmed:** clinical case definition and laboratory confirmation (IgM antibody to antiHBc or HBV nucleic acid in serum).

OBJECTIVES and METHODS

The EUROHEP.NET project is a 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.

EPIDEMIOLOGY



BURDEN OF DISEASE

Hepatitis B	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Acute hepatitis B: Hospitalised cases/100000 ¹					
Acute hepatitis B: Hospitalisation days per case					
Chronic hepatitis B: Hospitalised cases/100000					
Chronic hepatitis B: Hospitalisation days per case					
Total: Hospitalised cases/100000					
Total: Hospitalisation days per case					
Deaths	11	10	18	17	9
Mortality (total number of deaths per 100 000)	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.01
Cirrhosis cases				13288	15098
Total number of patients with hepatocellular cancer			350		
Total number of liver transplants					

COMMENTS

- Underreporting is possible according to the gate keeper..
- Turkey is a country with intermediate endemicity.
- No epidemiological studies are conducted by the Ministry of Health, but may be conducted by the universities.
- Prenatal screening of pregnant women is selective, not universal.
- The costs of the vaccination are completely covered by the Ministry of Health.

PREVENTION

Universal programme	starting in	starting at age	schedule	coverage rate
selective screening policy for pregnant women	yes			
vaccination of neonates	1998	0 months	0-2-9	72%
vaccination of adolescents				

Risk group programmes	available (since)	booster	reimbursed
injecting drug users*	1998	no	
men who have sex with men*	1998	no	
attendees of STI clinics	no		
dialysis patients*	1998	no	
groups with occupational risk*	1998	no	
household contacts of known hepatitis B carriers*	1998	no	
hospitalised patients	no		
neonates born to HBsAg positive mothers*	1998	no	
other	no		

* mandatory vaccination

FOOTNOTES

- There are no data available on hospitalisation, because there is no separate registration for hepatitis A and B.
- Data on liver transplantations are not available