

Surveillance, epidemiology and prevention of Hepatitis B in Greece

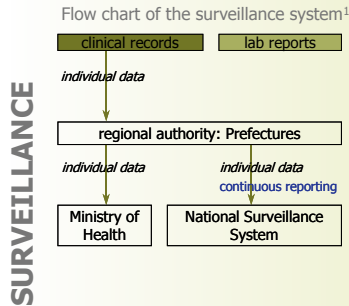
Results of the EUROHEP.NET feasibility survey

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Surveillance system	Since 1998	
mandatory reporting	yes	passive
voluntary reporting	no	
sentinel	no	
laboratory	no	



CASE DEFINITION

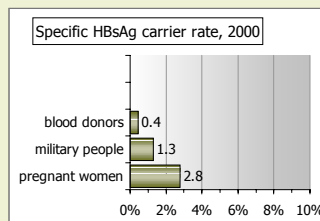
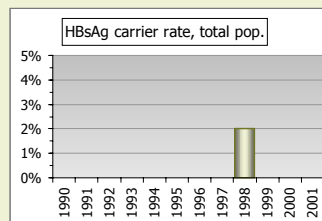
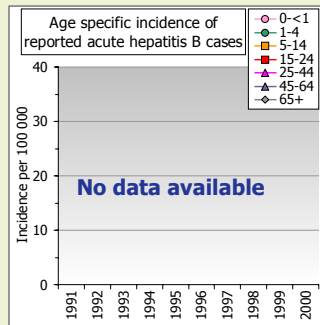
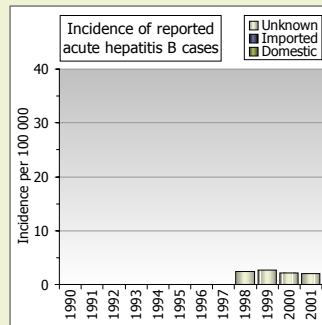
- EC Hepatitis B case definition is used:
- **Probable:** clinical picture compatible with hepatitis (e.g. discrete onset of symptoms and jaundice or elevated serum aminotransferase levels) and HBsAg positive.
- **Confirmed:** clinical case definition and laboratory confirmation (IgM antibody to antiHBc 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 DISEASE²

Hepatitis B	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Acute hepatitis B: Hospitalised cases/100000					
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					
Mortality (total number of deaths per 100 000)					
Cirrhosis cases					
Total number of patients with hepatocellular cancer					
Total number of liver transplants					

COMMENTS

- Surveillance for hepatitis B is passive and based on a mandatory system.
- EC case definition is used for surveillance purposes.
- Hepatitis B is considered a low to moderate endemic disease with HBsAg carrier rates around 2%.
- Sero-epidemiological and prevalence studies are under evaluation.
- Universal vaccination programmes exist for newborns and children at the age of 6 years. Many risk groups are also vaccinated in a voluntary or mandatory way.
- Cost of hepatitis B vaccine:
public pediatric use: 9.26€ (Engerix B)

PREVENTION by active immunisation

Universal programme	starting in 1998	starting at age	schedule	coverage rate 1998
universal screening policy for pregnant women	1998			
vaccination of neonates*	1998	birth	0.1.6	89%
vaccination of children*	1998	6 years	0.1.6	

* mandatory vaccination

Risk group programmes	available (since)	booster	reimbursed
injecting drug users	1998		no
men who have sex with men	1998		no
attendees of STI clinics	1998		no
dialysis patients*	1998	yes	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 risk groups	1998		

* mandatory vaccination

FOOTNOTES

1. Clinicians as well as laboratories and infectious control nurses report cases. No age specific data are available.
2. No hospitalization data are available, nor mortality data.