

Prevalence of virus hepatitis B and virus hepatitis C infection among health care providers from adult and children health care and social assistance centers

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Keywords

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Background

The prevalence of virus hepatitis B, C infection is about 2 - 7% for hepatitis B and 4,9 % for hepatitis C, in Romania. Health care workers exposed to blood and those who take care of people with disabilities have a high risk to be infected.

Purpose

To assess the prevalence of virus hepatitis B and virus hepatitis C infection among health care providers from adult and children health care and social assistance centers.

Methods

161 health care providers from 15 adult and children health care and social assistance centers were investigated for hepatitis B and hepatitis C infection between June 2009 – March 2010. All health care providers were employed before 2008. Serum samples were tested for AgHBs and Anti-HCV by CMIA (chemoluminescent microparticle immunoassay).

Results

161 health care providers were investigated (148 women, 13 men); average age was 41. They were represented by : physicians (8), physician assistance (36), nurses (109), social workers (2), other care workers (6). 8.07 % were infected with hepatitis B, C viruses (13 people); 3.72 % were AgHBs positive (six people) and 4,34% were Anti-HCV positive (seven people). For two centers (specialized in taking care of homeless and handicapped persons) the number of positive cases was higher (4 respectively 5 cases). All positive cases were diagnosed at nurses (13 infected people) and they were newly-diagnosed cases (except one of them). Risk factors for hepatitis B, C infection were identified for four cases (they had surgical interventions).

Conclusions

In our study 8,07% of tested people were positive for hepatitis B or C viruses.

Prevalence of virus hepatitis B infection was 3,72% and 4,34% for virus hepatitis C infection.

Centers specialized in taking care of homeless and handicapped persons were identified with higher number of positive cases.

An increase number of newly-diagnosed cases were registered.

All infected health care providers were nurses.

In conclusions, we consider very important to test all health care providers newly-employed for hepatitis B and C, inform them about the way of transmission for viral hepatitis B, C and about universal precaution rules. Epidemiological investigations are necessary for infected people.