
HEPATITIS B THE VANUATU STORY EVIDENCE TO IMPACT

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OVERVIEW

- Introduction
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- Aim and objectives
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INTRODUCTION

Hepatitis B- a double stranded DNA virus¹

- Means of transmission – Parenterally, sexual contact, infected mother to child, horizontal transmission¹
- Complications – Cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma ¹
- Global statistics – 350M worldwide infected carrier, 1 million deaths¹

Time of exposure	Risk of chronic infection	Risk of CLD or HCC
At birth	90%	50% of male carriers and 14% of female carriers
Childhood	30%	5-10%
Adulthood	<5%	1-2%



SUMMARY OF RESULTS FROM “ANTENATAL SERIOLOGY-THE NEED FOR HEPATITIS B SCREENING”

Women delivering at VCH in 2013	3036 screened
HBsAg screening	259 (only 9%) screened, None were referred to the medical team for follow up 12% prevalence
Prevalence of HBsAg donor blood over 20 month period	14.2% prevalence this is from a total of 1685 individuals screened



WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE THE 2013 STUDY

- Proper registration of all Hepatitis B positive cases that are seen by the medical team
- Developed HBsAg treatment guideline
- Addition of the anti-viral therapy into the NEDL-Tenofovir
- Rolling out Tenofovir treatment to Lenekel Hospital, NPH, Lolowai Hospital and Norsup Hospital
- Addition of HBV DNA into the test panel available at VCH
- Addition of Alpha feto Protein into the test panel available at VCH
- Starting treatment on Antenatal positive mothers
- Addition of Hepatitis B treatment guideline into the “Vanuatu treatment guideline” phone app



AIM AND OBJECTIVE

AIM:

To determine the prevalence of hepatitis B among women visiting the antenatal clinic at VCH in 2020

To determine if the testing rate has improved

OBJECTIVES:

- To estimate the burden of disease due to hepatitis B in Vanuatu



METHODOLOGY

- **Study Type-** Retrospective study

Inclusion:

- All expectant mothers whom received Antenatal care at VCH from Jan 2020 to August 2021 and whom had screening blood done
- Blood donor Jan 2020 To August 2021

Exclusion:

- Expectant mothers who had no ANC
- Expectant mothers who had ANC but no screening blood done.



RESULTS

ANC

Total ANC Patient= 4,449
Total No. patients tested- 2,933
Testing rate- 66%
Prevalence of Hepatitis B
positive in pregnant women= 7%

BLOOD DONORS

Total tested- 1204
Total Positive= 115
Prevalence of Hepatitis B
positive blood donors= 10%



DISCUSSION

1. Antenatal screening for Hepatitis B has improved from 9% (2013) to 66% (2020)
2. The rate of Hepatitis B prevalence is lesser than in 2020, however still high
3. Additional research is needed to determine the true Hepatitis B rate in Vanuatu, Prevalence of CLD and HCC and also to determine outcome from Tenofovir and treating Antenatal positive mums



CAUSES OF LACK OF SCREENING

1. Busy clinic
2. Lack of staff



NEXT STEPS/SOLUTIONS/CONCLUSION

- Improve Hepatitis B vaccination rate especially 1st dose and also completion of all 3 doses
- Refer ALL Hepatitis B positive patients to medical clinic to initiate Hepatitis B treatment and follow up if need be
- Possibility of vaccinating All ANC women who have not had a hepatitis b vaccination
- More research in Hepatitis B, its complications and treatment in order to improve services



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