Surveillance, epidemiology and prevention of Hepatitis B in the Czech Republic

Results of the EUROHEP.NET feasibility survey

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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. The project addresses issues related to surveillance and prevention of hepatitis A and B in the EU countries. Additional goals and scope of the project include: to facilitate the progress of these countries towards enhanced control of hepatitis A and B.

Since 2001, 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 disease and prevention programmes for these infectious diseases.

BURDEN OF DISEASE

- Table showing hospitalization rates for hepatitis B and hepatitis C cases

PREVENTION by active immunization

- Table showing vaccination coverage by age group and region

COMMENTS

- Surveillance is active for hepatitis B.
- EC case definition is used for surveillance purposes.
- Hepatitis B is low endemic in the Czech Republic with low carrier rates of HBsAg.
- There is a universal mandatory vaccination of infants and adolescents at 12 years of age in place. Risk group vaccination programmes are recommended for several subpopulations.
- Cost of hepatitis B vaccine: public pediatric dose 20K (regina d.y., ZV (Czech))

FOOTNOTES

1. Data on hospitalization consider only acute cases. The average costs of hospitalization are approximated. In 2001, no concrete data are available. The total number of hospitalised cases and the total number of hospitalised cases for hepatitis A are the same.
2. Source for hospital admissions is the mandatory reporting system. Source for mortality data is the Czech Statistical Office through MOH.
3. Vaccination coverage control is registered at a central level and is covering a sample of population of vaccinated children from all regions.