Surveillance, epidemiology and prevention of Hepatitis B in Poland

Results of the EUROHEP.NET feasibility survey

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 Croatia. The overall objective 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. The first achievement of this EU concerted action is to provide in a standardized/comparative way an overview of 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.

EPIEMIOLOGY

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).

COMMENTS

- Surveillance for hepatitis B is passive.
- Hepatitis B is considered low endemic in Poland.
- The mandatory reporting system achieves a very high completeness.
- The last conducted sero-epidemiological study was performed on health care workers randomly selected in 1998-1999.
- Cost of hepatitis B vaccine: private pediatric dose: 10.25€ (Engerix B);
  - Public pediatric use: 7.5-8.5€ (Engerix B)
  - Total: Hospitalised cases/100000
  - Total: Hospitalisation days per case

PREVENTION by active immunisation

- Risk group programmes available
  - Injecting drug users nomen who have sex with men no
  - Attendees of STI clinics no
  - Dialysis patients* 1993
  - Groups with occupational risk* 1993
  - Household contacts of known hepatitis B carriers* 1993
  - Hospitalised patients no
  - Neonates born to HBsAg positive mothers yes

FOOTNOTES

1. Source of epidemiological data are reliable data based on mandatory epidemiological reports, the data refer to acute hepatitis B cases.
2. The data source of hepatitis B vaccine in adult verification, hepatitis B vaccine and hepatitis B immunoglobulin. Hepatitis B data come from the same Central Statistical Office. Data refer to acute hepatitis B.
3. Mandatory vaccination exists for some more risk groups: students of medical schools, students of paramedical schools and persons with chronic liver- and kidney diseases.

BURDEN OF DISEASE

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