

Prevalence of HBV Infection in Health Care Personnel

Pages with reference to book, From 81 To 81

Madam, I read with interest a short report published in your November, 1994 issue titled 'Prevalence of HBV Infection in Health Care Personnel'. The report does not clearly define the studied population, as it was not mentioned that what is the exact number of doctors, dentists and sweepers employed in the JPMC. Unless whole of the studied population at risk is taken into account the estimation of prevalence remains unreliable. Secondly, it was recommended that all.

Reply

Madam, The primary purpose of the study was to know problem of HBV in health care workers. It was the pilot study. I agree with Dr. Bader Faiyaz Zuben that for determination of true prevalence of HBV infection in health care workers, a better designing and selection of larger study population are needed. With regards his reservation over my recommendation of HB vaccination of all susceptible health care worker, I feel there is some misunderstanding in interpreting the term susceptible. By this term I meant all health care workers who have not been exposed to the HBV infection but carry the potential risk of getting it because of the nature of their work.

susceptible health care workers be vaccinated in our region where carrier rate is 10% and exposure rate is 32% it indicates that 42% adults do not need vaccination.

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Naturally their identification need prior testing for HBs Ag and HBs Ab. However, I am in total agreement with him, that in presence of the high exposure rate of HBV infection in health care workers, there is no justification of their vaccination without prior screening of Hepatitis B markers.

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