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Hepatitis B immunization status of a miscellaneous population of workers

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Background: Infection with hepatitis B virus (HBV) can be prevented by vaccination with HB surface antigen, which induces HBS specific antibodies and T cells. But the immunization status of workers and its relationship with occupational factors are not well documented. The goal is to examine the factors of risk and the immunization status against HBV among a population of workers.

Methods: An assessment of the vaccination and the immunization status against HBV was conducted among a miscellaneous population of French workers, recruited from a medical occupational center, during a cross-sectional study. A representative sample of a population of 3000 workers enrolled was selected.

Results: The population studied included many housemaids (18%), police officers (15%), technicians (15%), administrative agents (15%), electricians (12%) and healthcare workers (6%). The overall vaccination coverage (against HBV) was 39%, with an average of 4.2 doses of vaccine per worker. But the immune status was known for 18% of the studied population of which 2/3 (12% of the whole population) were immunized against HBV. Elevated risk factor to be infected by HBS concerns 6% of the studied workers (half of them were immunized). Medium risk concerns 30% of the whole population (1/3 was immunized) and low risk enrolled 64% (nobody was immunized).

Conclusion: It is known that the high risk of infection among healthcare workers is greater than the general working population; but most of workers with medium occupation risk exposure were not immunized. Vaccination programs against HBV should have been forced for this last population.

Biography

Deschamps F is PhD in Occupational Toxicology since 1993 and was nominated Professor of Medicine in 2002. He runs for the last 20 years the Department of Occupational Diseases of the University Hospital of Reims (Champagne County) and has been managing the Regional Institute of Occupational Health since 1995. He belongs to the French National University College of Occupational Researches and Practitioners. He is focusing his work on occupational stress, infectious diseases and long-term exposure effects on health due to low doses toxics.

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