

THE RISK OF INFECTION WITH HBV AS CONCERNS THE MEDICAL STAFF WORKING IN THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES DEPARTMENT, COMPARED TO OTHER POPULATIONAL GROUPS

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We have studied over a period of 5 years the medical staff consisting of 320 fellows (physicians, nurses office workers and handicraftsmen) who work in a department of infectious diseases. The proportion of viral hepatitis was 15%. 76% of the patients showed parenteral infections with HBV. The incidence of VHB infection in different groups (unequals as regards the number of subjects) was as follows:

a) medical staff working in departments with different profiles (internal medicine, neurology, surgery, polyclinics) - 9%; b) blood donors - 4,8%; c) members of a military community - 3,6%. The most liable to infection were: the laboratories, the hepatitis and AIDS departments and the admission room. The diseases was seldom noticed in nurses and technical-administrative personnel. The question is if viral hepatitis in medical staff is a profesional disease or work accident. Anti-HBV vaccination has major indication, as well as aseptic techniques, since the blood is the most infectious material (risk of infection with C virus).