

High rates of positive viral hepatitis serology in patients of a city hospital in the south of Vietnam

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Background

Community based studies in Vietnam show a very high hepatitis B (HBV) prevalence of 10-20%.

Hepatitis C (HCV) prevalence is reported at 1% in rural areas and estimated to be higher in cities.

Hospitals are essential sites to screen patients and identify risk factors for patients and healthcare workers.

Results recorded in a hospital in Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) during a campaign on occasion of World Digestive Health Day on Viral Hepatitis May 29, 2007 are reported.

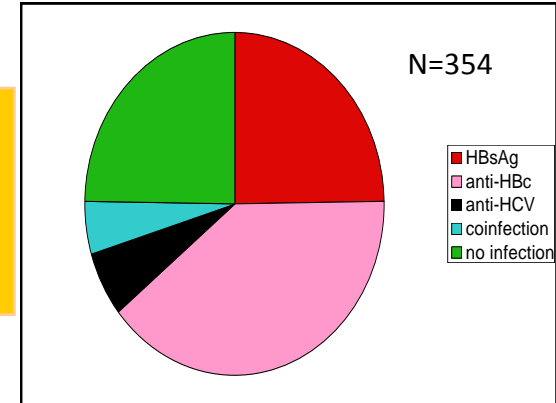
Patients and methods

HBsAg, anti-HBc and anti-HCV serology was done during the campaign in 354 unselected Vietnamese patients coming to the OPD of the hospital.

Two cohorts of HBsAg+ (n=397) and anti-HCV+ (n=228) consecutive patients were included from May to August 2007.

354 outpatients:

Women/men %	54.5 / 45.5
Age years (sd)	36.8 (14.9)
HBsAg-positive	92 (26%)
anti-HBc-positive	147 (41.5%)
anti-HCV-positive	23 (6.5%)
co-infection HBV+HCV	19 (5.3%)
neither HBV/ HCV	92 (26%)

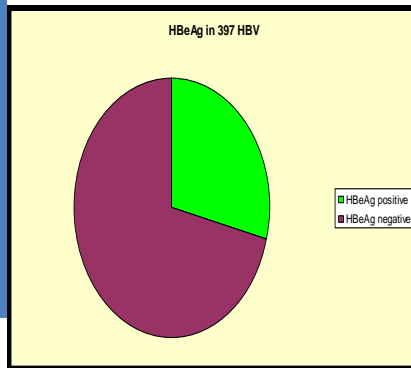


HBsAg+

Men	57.2%
Women	42.8%
Vietnam	93%
Asian	7%

HBsAg positive	29.1%
DNA detectable	97.3%

HBsAg negative	70.9%
DNA detectable	64.8%



HBsAg positive and DNA > 10⁴: 93.4%

HBsAg negative and DNA > 10⁴: 39.7%

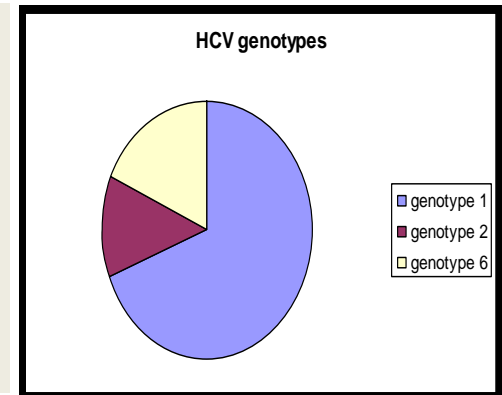
total high DNA >10⁴ IU/ml: 59.4%

Demographics and genotypes of 228 hepatitis C cases

Men	47.4%
Women	52.6%

Vietnam	75%
Cambodia	23%

Genotype 1	68.2%
Genotype 2	12.9%
Genotype 6	18.1%



Conclusions

- In this patient population attending a hospital the prevalence of HBsAg+ was higher than reported in community studies.
- The prevalence of anti-HCV was several folds higher than reported in a rural area. Co-infection HBV and HCV was common. Genotypes 1 and 6 accounted for most of HCV infection.
- These very high rates of viral hepatitis in a hospital setting challenge healthcare providers in terms of patient management as well as caregiver's prevention

