

Prevalence of HBsAg & anti-HBs in children & strategy suggested for immunisation in India.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/1797638>

Cited in:

Indian J Med Res. 1991 Nov;93:337-9.

Prevalence of HBsAg & anti-HBs in children & strategy suggested for immunisation in India.

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Abstract

The prevalence of HBsAg and anti-HBs was studied in sera from 982 children of different age groups below 5 yr. HBsAg was detected in 0.9, 2.3, 4.1, 2.3 and 1.6 per cent children of 0-1, 2-6, 7-12, 13-36 and 37-60 months age groups respectively. Anti-HBs in these five groups was noted in 17.0, 12.9, 18.4, 14.2 and 13.7 per cent children, respectively. The findings suggest that the carrier pool is built up in the preschool age group, particularly, below the age of 6 months. Perinatal transmission and the relative role of transplacental need re-evaluation. Cost analysis does not permit inclusion of HBV in the Expanded Programme of Immunisation.

Reference

Tandon BN, Gandhi BM, Joshi YK. Etiological spectrum of viral hepatitis and prevalence of markers of hepatitis A and B virus infection in north India. Bull World Health Organ 1984; 62 : 67-73.