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Risk factors and prevalence of antibodies against hepatitis A virus (HAV) in day care children in Goiânia, Brazil

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Abstract

A seroepidemiological study for hepatitis A virus (HAV), investigating the markers of past infection (total anti-HAV - IgG and IgM) and recent infection (anti-HAV IgM), was performed between 1991 and 1992 in daycare children of Goiânia-central Brazil. Of the 310 children aged between 03 months and 9 years, 69.7% showed seropositivity to the total anti-HAV, being 60%, in the age group between 1 and 3 years.

The prevalence of the anti-HAV IgM marker was 3.2%, seen at the age of 1-4 years and with uniform distribution in the 10 day care centers studied. Among the socio-demographic variables studied, only the frequency of children in day-care centers, equal to or greater than one year, showed a 4.7-fold higher risk in a multivariate analysis adjusted for age when compared to the one-month period (LC 95% 2.3-9.9).

According to the results, hepatitis A is an endemic infection in the population type studied and the prolonged frequency of children in public day care centers is a risk factor for HAV infection. These results suggest that, once the vaccine is instituted in the region, day care children should receive it before one year of age, or at the latest before entering public day care centers.

Keywords: Hepatitis A survey; Seroepidemiology; Day-care children

Reference

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