

HEPATITIS B PREVALENCE IN COMMUNITIES IN THE EASTERN AFRICAN REGION: A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW

Mude W¹, Mwanri L²

¹Australian Research Centre for Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia

²Discipline of Public Health, School of Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia

Introduction: Recent global systematic review of Chronic Hepatitis B (CHB) informs of high CHB prevalence in Sub-Saharan African countries. Latest opinions raised significant methodological issues with the CHB systematic review. In 2010, Sub-Saharan African population in Australia was estimated to be 293,176; with the majority resettled as refugees from Eastern African region. Understanding the actual prevalence of CHB in countries of origin from where refugees come to Australia is necessary in order to provide appropriate interventions to migrants from these settings in Australia. The current review aims to provide CHB prevalence estimate for communities in the Eastern African region.

Method: Embase, Medline, PubMed, Web of Science, and Scopus were systematically searched for the period 1983-2015 using a preset grid logic. Studies reporting ELISA based positive HBsAg prevalence from Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Rwanda were extracted based on identified exclusion/inclusion criteria. Data for all high and low-risk groups were included; and analyzed for different population groups using random effect model at 95% CI prevalence weighted by studies. MedCalc Inc. was used for the analysis.

Results: Overall, up to 90,549 people were included from all the identified countries. The prevalence of CHB among general East African populations was 18.09% (95% CI 13.45-23.25), 11.59% (95% CI 9.11-14.33), and 6.53% (95% CI 5.34-7.84) for the period 1983-1993, 1994-2004, and 2005-2015 respectively. For the period 2005-2015, the CHB prevalence for general populations from Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Rwanda were 5.90% (95% CI 4.98-6.89) 7.96% (95% CI 5.53-10.79), 8.18% (95% CI 3.56-14.47), 4.46% (95% CI 2.88-5.63), 7.03% (95% CI 4.53-10.04), and 4.13% (95% CI 2.33-6.43) respectively.

Conclusion: CHB prevalence in Eastern African region has reduced in the last decade though still significantly high compared to Australia's. Efforts should be made to create awareness and address CHB issues among corresponding communities in Australia.

Disclosure of interest: None