

# HEPATITIS B VACCINATION STATUS AMONG PHYSICAL THERAPY AND PHARMACOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENTS

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## Background

Hepatitis B vaccination is the most effective means of preventing hepatitis B and its complications. Health care workers are included in the high-risk group for this disease and should be vaccinated.

In Brazil, hepatitis B vaccine is offered free of charge by public health system for the whole population, and health field students should be aware of the importance of vaccination.

## Objective

**The objective of this study was to assess the hepatitis B vaccination status of physiotherapy and pharmacology graduate students and reasons for non-adherence to vaccination in a Brazilian health college.**

## Methods

➤ Cross-sectional study developed in 2016, at a health college in a city of Brazil.

➤ After their participation in a Viral Hepatitis Workshop organized by a non-governmental organization, physiotherapy and pharmacology students completed a questionnaire with the following questions:

- 1) Have you taken hepatitis B vaccination?
- 2) Have you taken all doses?
- 3) How many doses?
- 4) If you haven't taken the vaccine or all doses, why not?

➤ Descriptive statistics was performed.

## Results

➤ 71 students responded the questionnaire:

- 30 (42.25%) pharmacology students
- 41 (57.74%) physiotherapy students.

➤ Pharmacology students:

- 20 (66.67%) were vaccinated against Hepatitis B,
- 7 (23.33%) didn't know their vaccinations status
- 3 (10%) weren't vaccinated.

➤ Physiotherapy students:

- 16 (39.02%) were vaccinated,
- 17 (41.46%) didn't know
- 08 (19.51%) weren't vaccinated.

➤ Main reason of not taking the hepatitis B vaccination: "I didn't know the importance, but now I will take" (pharmacology=69.23% and physiotherapy=55.55%).

## Conclusion

The study showed low percentage of vaccination coverage among students from both courses, especially physiotherapy.

The main reason for non-adherence to vaccination was lack of knowledge about vaccination importance.

This results show the needs of including more information about hepatitis B in the program of these courses. Results also suggest that campaigns and events about hepatitis B are important to improve the awareness of the health students.