

# HEPATITIS B VACCINATION AMONG PRIMARY HEALTH CARE WORKERS IN A CITY OF BRAZIL

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## Background

Hepatitis B is the infectious disease most likely to be acquired by healthcare professionals at work. Nevertheless, it has been demonstrated low prevalence of hepatitis B vaccination among these professionals.

In Brazil, the community health agents are professionals with technical training who work in primary care.

**This study aimed to determine the prevalence of hepatitis B vaccination among CHA and reasons for non-adherence to vaccination.**

## Methods

- Study approved by Research Ethics Committee of Federal University of Espirito Santo and conducted on April, 2016.
- 117 community health agents in a Brazilian city 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

- 23 professionals (19.66%) had not taken any dose of vaccine.
- Among 94 professionals (80.34%) who had taken vaccine:
  - 1) 66 (70.21%) had taken all doses
  - 2) 13 (13.83%) hadn't taken all doses
  - 3) 15 (15.96%) didn't answer.

However, only 50(53.19%) answered correctly the number of doses.

- The main reasons for CHA hadn't taken complete-series vaccination were:
  - 1)They didn't know the importance (n=18-45%)
  - 2) There was no available vaccine (n=11-7.5%)
  - 3) Another reason (n=6-15%)
  - 4) Lack of time (n=4-10%).
- Among CHA who was working in this activity for more than five years:
  - 11 (26.83%) hadn't taken the vaccine,
  - 6 (14.63%) hadn't taken all doses;
- Among CHA working from 1 to 5 years:
  - 9 (15.25%) hadn't taken the vaccine
  - 7(10.29%) hadn't taken all doses;
- Among CHA working less than one year:
  - 3( 100%) hadn't taken the vaccine.

## Conclusion

Non-adherence to vaccination and lack of awareness about hepatitis B vaccine was observed among ACS with less working time, and among more experienced professionals.

Strategies to raise awareness about the vaccine and increase its availability are needed.