

Session: EV016 More on viral hepatitis

**Category: 1b. Viral hepatitis (incl antiviral drugs, treatment & susceptibility/resistance, diagnostics & epidemiology)**

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## Prevalence of blood-borne viruses among Iranian dentists - results of a national survey

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**Background:** Health care workers including dentists are at the front line for acquiring blood-borne virus infections. This study aimed to investigate the prevalence of hepatitis B, hepatitis C and human immunodeficiency viruses among Iranian dentists.

**Material/methods:** The survey included 1628 dental health care workers who were attended the 51<sup>st</sup> annual Congress of the Iranian Dental Association. Data on the risk of bloodborne virus transmission during health care and infection control practices were gathered from self-administered questionnaires. Sera were screened serologically by ELISA. The positive samples were examined by PRC followed by direct sequencing.

**Results:** 6 (0.36%) and 81 (5.0%) were positive for HBsAg and anti-HBc, respectively. Only one (0.061%) was positive for anti-HCV. No case was positive for anti-HIV. One case was diagnosed as being occult HBV infection. 1535 (94.3%) of participants had received at least one dose of HBV vaccine. 1359 (88.5%) were contained anti-HBs >10 IU/ mL of whom 55 (4.0%) were anti-HBc positive suggesting that they had been infected with HBV in the past.

Anti-HBc positive cases had past histories of hepatitis either in their own or her/his spouse. Individuals with inadequate anti-HBs levels ( $<10$  IU/mL) were significantly more prevalent among anti-HBc positive case ( $P<0.001$ ).

**Conclusions:** The prevalence of blood born viruses among dental HCWs found in this study was lower than past reports from Iranian dentists and general population. The implementation of HBV vaccination together with improvement in infection control procedures has reduced the potential for risk infection among Iranian dentists.