

Hepatitis B Cancer Prevention & Changes to the National Cervical Screening

research
prevention
support

Nafisa Yussf

Date: 5/12/2017



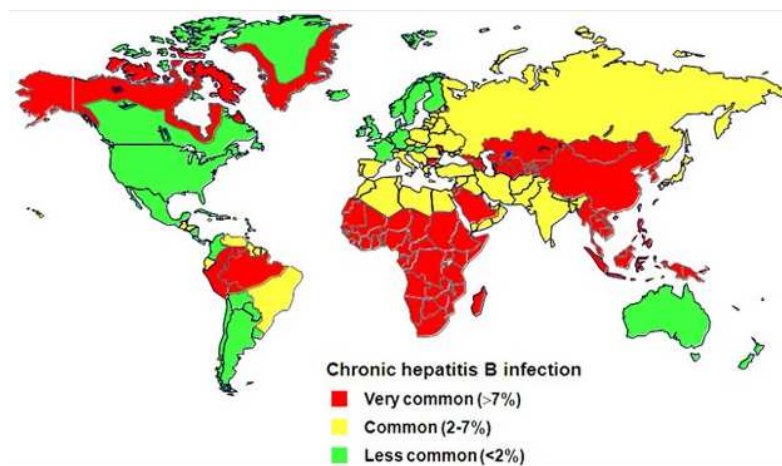
Outline

- **The link between hepatitis and liver cancer**
- **Example of a testing campaign with priority communities**
- **Changes to the National Cervical Screening Program**
- **Opportunities within primary care for screening**



Hepatitis B snapshot

- 239,167 people are living with hepatitis B
- Without medical intervention, up to 1 in 4 people living with chronic hepatitis B infection may develop liver cirrhosis and/or liver cancer.
- 2 in 5 people are unaware they have chronic hepatitis B and may be symptomless.



Symptoms of Hepatitis B

Many people have **no symptoms**

Some people may have:

- General aches and pains
- Fever
- Nausea (feelings of vomiting)
- Loss of appetite (not eating well)
- Abdominal discomfort
- Yellow eyes and skin



Hepatitis B transmission

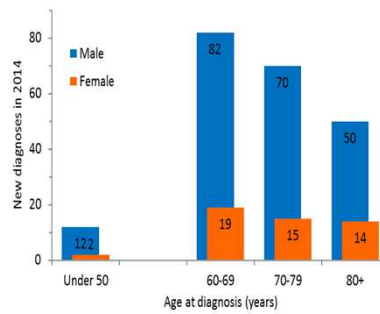
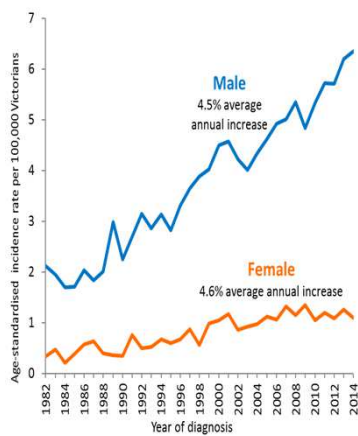


6

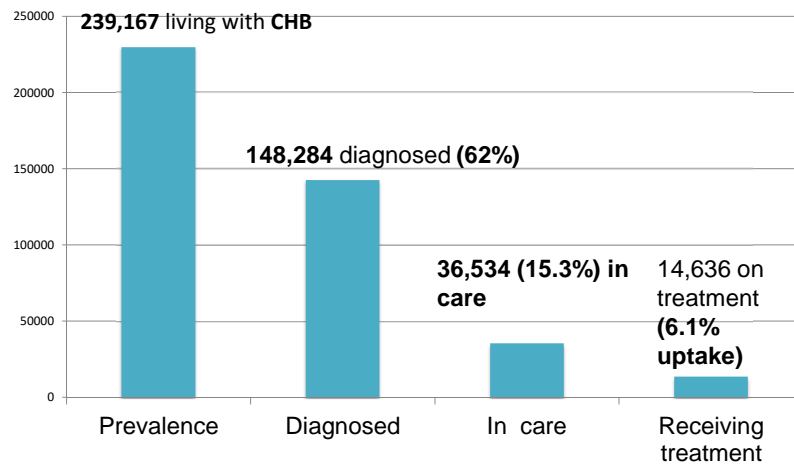
Can NOT transmit hepatitis B through...



Primary Liver Cancer in Victoria



The cascade of care for CHB, 2015



Monitoring and Management

- People with CHB need regular monitoring
- Most patients with CHB do not need to see a specialist regularly.
- They can be managed in the community by GPs and practice nurses with specialist support depending on disease stage.



Monitoring involves



Seeing a doctor every 6 months



Having some blood tests



Having an ultrasound to take a picture of the liver



Treatment for hepatitis B

- **Treatment is available for hepatitis B (no cure yet)**
- **Not everybody with chronic hepatitis B needs medications**
- **But everybody needs monitoring**



What to increase across primary care?

- **Opportunistically screen priority groups**
 - Vaccinate if susceptible
 - Support the person with the diagnosis with the right tests and information
- **Monitor and treat people with chronic hepatitis B**
 - 6 monthly checks to monitor disease progression
 - Prescribe antivirals when required
 - Recall for liver cancer surveillance when required



Hep B Vaccination in Victoria

Eligible for free vaccination:

- Men who have sex with men
- People living with HIV/Hep C
- People who inject drugs/opioid therapies
- People in prisons/have been in custody
- Family and household contacts of people with CHB
- Vulnerable citizens
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
- All refugees and humanitarian entrants including people seeking asylum
- All people under 20 years of age



Common beliefs in communities

- There is no treatment for hepatitis B
- Hepatitis B doesn't exist in Australia
- Cancer can bring shame or a sense of blame
- You can tell if someone has hepatitis B because of the symptoms
- People can't tell their family and friends
- Cancer and/or hepatitis is a curse or a test from God
- Cancer and/or hepatitis is a "white man's" disease



Increasing awareness - community campaigns



National Cervical Screening Program

Evidence based decision was taken to change from 2-yearly Pap tests to newer/more sensitive approach of 5-yearly primary Cervical Screening Test (CST)



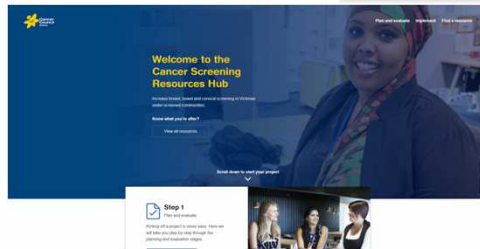
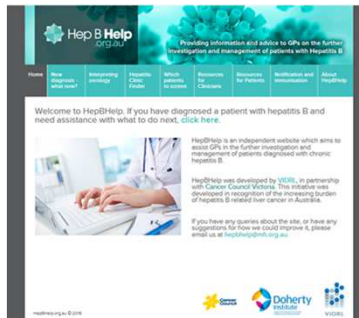
Key changes

In December 2017:

- 5 yearly primary human papillomavirus (HPV) testing available
- Self-collection of an HPV sample for under or never screened women
- Invitations and reminders to be sent to women aged 25–69 years, with exit testing from age 70–74 years
- New National Cancer Screening Register (NCSR)



Useful websites



Questions...



Thank you

Nafisa Yussf
Community Engagement Officer

Nafisa.yussf@cancervic.org.au

