Getting Hep to Hep A

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Are you ready for the call?
You have a Hep A outbreak....
Hepatitis A outbreaks
Epidemiology in the World

Geographic Distribution of HAV Infection

Anti-HAV Prevalence
- High
- Intermediate
- Low
- Very Low
Hepatitis A: Symptoms

Why Should You Care About Hepatitis A?
If a person has an infection with the Hepatitis A virus, it can easily spread from person-to-person and cause liver disease lasting a few weeks to a serious illness lasting many months. In some cases, people can die because of Hepatitis A.

How Does Hepatitis A Spread?
- Touching objects or eating food that someone with Hepatitis A infection handled
- Having sex with someone who has a Hepatitis A infection

What Are the Symptoms of Hepatitis A?
- Fever
- Fatigue
- Nausea
- Loss of appetite
- Jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes)
- Stomach pain
- Vomiting
- Dark urine, pale stools, and diarrhea

If you think you have Hepatitis A because of these symptoms, see your doctor or visit the closest Emergency Room. Always wash your hands with soap and water after going to the bathroom and before preparing food.
Who is at increased risk for acquiring hepatitis A virus (HAV) infection?

- Persons with direct contact with persons who have hepatitis A
- Travelers to countries with high or intermediate endemicity of HAV infection
- Men who have sex with men
- Users of injection and non-injection drugs
- Persons with clotting factor disorders
- Persons working with nonhuman primates
- Household members and other close personal contacts of adopted children newly arriving from countries with high or intermediate hepatitis A endemicity
How long does hepatitis A virus (HAV) survive outside the body?

• HAV can live outside the body for months, depending on the environmental conditions

• In the environment, HAV can be killed by cleaning household or other facility surfaces with a freshly prepared solution of 1:100 dilution of household bleach to water
Current CDC Guidelines for Health Care Institutions:

• Healthcare personnel do not have increased prevalence of HAV infection and healthcare-associated outbreaks of HAV are rare. Therefore, Hep A vaccination is not routinely recommended for health care personnel in the United States.
But we disagree.....

LET'S JUST AGREE TO DISAGREE
Occupational Exposure in Fire and EMS Personnel

The Journal of Emergency Medicine
Volume 11, Issue 1, January–February 1993, Pages 9-16

Original contribution

Occupational infectious disease exposures in EMS personnel

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Occupational Exposures in Fire / EMS personnel

• 15 (5.9%) were eye splashes
• 8 (3.1%) were mucous membrane exposures
• 38 (14.8%) were exposure to nonintact skin
Viral hepatitis risk in urban emergency medical services personnel

Pepe, Hollinger, Troisi, Heiberg,
Viral hepatitis risk in urban emergency medical services personnel

• **Final Word**: Of prehospital providers screened 16% had Hep A antibodies
• Prior to vaccine available
Unique Hazards to Medical Personnel
Hepatitis A: Serology vs Infectious Agent
• Exposed to HAV within the prior 14 days and have not previously completed the 2-dose HepA vaccine series should receive a single dose of Hep A vaccine as soon as possible
Hepatitis A Vaccine

HAVRIX (GlaxoSmithKine)  VAQTA (MERCK)
GamaSTAN S/D
Hepatitis A Post Exposure Prophylaxis

• GamaSTAN S/D is the **only IG product** approved by the Food and Drug Administration for hepatitis A virus (HAV) prophylaxis.
STOP ONGOING OUTBREAKS OF HEPATITIS A

HEPATITIS A VIRUS INFECTION
- CAUSES LIVER DISEASE
- EASILY SPREADS
- PREVENTABLE WITH A VACCINE

SPREADING PERSON-TO-PERSON
AMONG PERSONS REPORTING DRUG USE OR HOMELESSNESS
- 71% HOSPITALIZED
- 3% DIED

1,521 CASES
4 STATES
2017

>7,000 CASES
12 STATES
2016 - 2018

INCREASE VACCINATION
- PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS
- PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS
- OTHER AT-RISK GROUPS*

Data from 2017 outbreaks as reported to CDC from California, Michigan, Kentucky, and Utah and published in Foster et al, MMWR 2018; 67(1):45

*CDC hepatitis A vaccine recommendations: bit.ly/CDChepA

WWW.CDC.GOV
Hep A: Coming to a sidewalk near you!
Measles
The other problem
What is the greatest infectious threat to your personnel?

Measles

IT ISN’T JUST A LITTLE RASH
Dr. Jui-How infectious is Measles?

90% of the people close to that person who are not protected will also become infected

- Measles spreads when infected people 
  cough or sneeze
- Infected people can spread measles 4 days before they get the rash through 4 days after it appears
The Measles Facts

- High fever
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red, watery eyes
- Tiny white spots inside the mouth
- Rash from head to toe

- Three to five days after symptoms begin, a rash breaks out.
  - When the rash appears, a person’s fever may spike to more than 104° Fahrenheit.
  - After a few days, the fever subsides and the rash fades.
APIC Guide Emphasizes Special Infection Prevention Needs of EMS Personnel
What is a system to do?
Take Home

Be Vigilant
Be Vaccinated
Be Informed