

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.