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Vaccination of hepatitis B in healthy adults: Effect of sex and age, two protocols of revaccination in non-responders

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Objective: To assess, in non-vaccinated healthy adults, the response to the standard protocol SP of vaccination for hepatitis B (0, 1, 6 months) and the response to two protocols using additional boosters in those who remain non-responders.

Methods: 192 employees of the Psychiatric Hospital of the Cross with a mean age of 44.3 (44.3±12.35), non-vaccinated and not having other illness (hepatic failure, chronic renal failure, HIV infection, cancer and active hepatitis) are vaccinated with Engerix B (Engerix® B 20 µg/1 ml) by the SP. The non-responders to this protocol (anti-Hbs antibodies <10 UI/l) are divided into two groups. The first group receives a single booster (R1) 4 months after the SP and those who remained non-responders receive a double booster (R1b) 2 years after the SP. The second group (P2) receives a unique double booster (R2), 2 years after the SP.

Results: The rate of response after the vaccination by the SP is 75.5% (145/192). 28 non-responders (P1) receive a booster R1 after 4 months; their rate of response is 32.14% (9/28). The 19 non-responders to R1 receive a double booster (R1b) after 2 years. Their rate of response is 36.84% (7/19). The rate of response among the group P1 is 57.14% (16/28). 19 non-responders (P2) receive a unique double booster after 2 years. Their rate of response is 63.16% (12/19). 9.9% (19/192) of individuals do not respond to any of the boosters. The rate of response decreases with the age. This decrease is 5% every year and 41% every 10 years. For the same age, men are 2 fold more responders than women. After receiving all boosters, there is no difference between genders.

Conclusion: A unique double booster done 2 years after the SP gives a better response than a single booster done after 4 months and a similar response to a single booster done after 4 months followed by a double booster done after 2 years. The female gender and the age are 2 factors that decrease the response to the vaccination.

Biography

Jacques Choucair is an Infectious Diseases Specialist in Hotel Dieu de France teaching hospital in Beyrouth. He has obtained his MD degree in 1994 from the Saint-Joseph University, Faculty of Medicine in Beyrouth. He has completed a 2 years Fellowship from 1998-2000 at Bichat Claude Bernard Hospital and Bacteriology at Broussais Hospital affiliated to University of Paris V. He has received his Diploma in Infectious Diseases (1999), Saint-Joseph University, Beyrouth. Since 2001, he is a Practitioner and ID Consultant in the Infectious Diseases Department at Hotel Dieu de France de Beyrouth Teaching Hospital. He also has completed Medical Teaching Diploma from the University of Montreal in Canada in 2003. He has published more than 30 articles and is a Reviewer in national and international journals. His main topics of interest are bacterial resistance and the proper use of antibiotics. He is a Former Member of the scientific committee of the Lebanese Society of Infectious Diseases, Member in the Arab association for the proper use of antibiotics, Member of the infection control committee at the Hotel Dieu de France Teaching Hospital, Member of ECMID and Member of the Evaluation and Docimology Committee and In Charge of the OSCE exam at the Saint Joseph University, School of Medicine.

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