

Present situation of hepatitis B in Chile Situación actual de la hepatitis B en Chile

Pereira Scalabrino, Ana

Valenzuela B, María Teresa

Mora, Judith

Vera, Lilian

Background: Hepatitis B virus infection generates carriers and 8% will evolve to a chronic phase.

Aim: To perform a compilation of studies on hepatitis B in Chile and other sources of information to estimate the impact of this disease in our country. **Material and methods:** Published and

unpublished evidence about the infection, in the general population and risk groups in our country, was compiled and reviewed critically. Informal interviews to experts, revision of the mandatory

notification book of the Ministry of Health and collection of data from laboratories that study hepatitis

B virus, were also carried out. **Results:** The seroprevalence of chronic carriers in blood donors is

nearly 0.3%. Among risk groups such as health care personnel, the figure is 0.7%, among

homosexuals 29%, among HIV positive patients 30%, among sexual workers 2% and among

children with chronic hemodialysis, 9%. Prevalence rate according to notified cases in 2004 was 1.8

x 100,000 habitants. Detection of viral