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Hepatitis B infection

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Chronic hepatitis B is a serious public health problem in the entire world and although an effective vaccine is widely implemented, the involvement of general practice/family medicine is still required to manage the high disease's burden. In addition, the current financial and refugees' crisis in Europe calls for urgent actions towards prevention and effective management of hepatitis B. This becomes more challenging since new therapies have been introduced with a long effect on virus load and an impact on the disease's natural course and mainly on its evolution to hepatocellular carcinoma and cirrhosis. The presentation aims to utilize a clinical scenario to discuss the disease's burden across world, the interpretation of results of the clinical and laboratory tests including those typically used for initial testing, and follow up after initial testing indicate a possible hepatitis B infection. The treatment of hepatitis B with the aim to maintain a long-term viral suppression will also be discussed throughout the selected scenario. Part of the presentation will focus on the role of GPs in diagnosis, monitoring and referral to secondary care, and a short illustration of the evidence based guidelines issued by colleges in general practice/family medicine will be the epilogue of the presentation.

