

Patient costs, characteristics and outcomes associated with hospitalizations related to hepatitis B and hepatitis C – California, 2002 – 2011

Darryl Kong MPH, Kathleen Winter MPH, Erin Murray PhD, Rachel McLean MPH, Jennifer Zipprich PhD, Kathleen Harriman RN, MPH, PhD



California Department of Public Health
Immunization Branch
GETIMMUNIZEDCA.ORG

Background

Hepatitis B virus (HBV) and Hepatitis C virus are the most prevalent blood borne infections in the United States. California is estimated to have 35,000 HBV-infected persons and 750,000 HCV-infected persons. These infections can lead to death or complications including:

- Cirrhosis
- Hepatic decompensation
- End stage liver disease (ESLD)
- Liver cancer
- Liver failure requiring liver transplant

Goals

We described the proportion of hepatitis-related hospitalizations attributable to patients with a history of HBV infection. Among patients with a history of HBV or HCV infection we described the following:

- Demographics
- HBV and HCV complications
- Charges and length of hospitalization
- Change in hospitalizations for severe complications from 2002 to 2011

Methods

Study population

We collected California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development patient discharge data for all non-federal licensed acute care hospitals and rehabilitation facilities in California. We selected all hospitalizations with discharge dates during 2002–2011 and International Classification of Disease 9 (ICD-9) diagnosis and procedure codes for any of the following hepatitis-related conditions:

- Chronic liver disease
 - HBV, HCV, or unspecified viral hepatitis infection
 - Chronic liver disease sequelae
 - Alcoholic liver disease
 - Chronic hepatitis
- Cirrhosis
- Hepatic decompensation
 - Hepatic encephalopathy, including coma
 - Esophageal varices
 - Peritonitis
 - Ascites
- Liver cancer
- Liver transplant
- Liver transplant complications
- Other hepatitis symptoms
 - Jaundice, non-neonatal
 - Acute viral hepatitis other than HBV and HCV

Hospitalizations were aggregated at the patient level using a matching algorithm considering social security number, birth date, sex, race, zip code, and primary language.

Definitions

Hepatitis-related hospitalizations: hospitalization with an ICD-9 code for any hepatitis-related condition excluding ICD-9 codes for HBV or HCV infection without coma unless this was the primary diagnosis

HBV infection: ≥ 1 hospitalization with an HBV ICD-9 code

HCV infection: ≥ 1 hospitalization with an HCV ICD-9 code

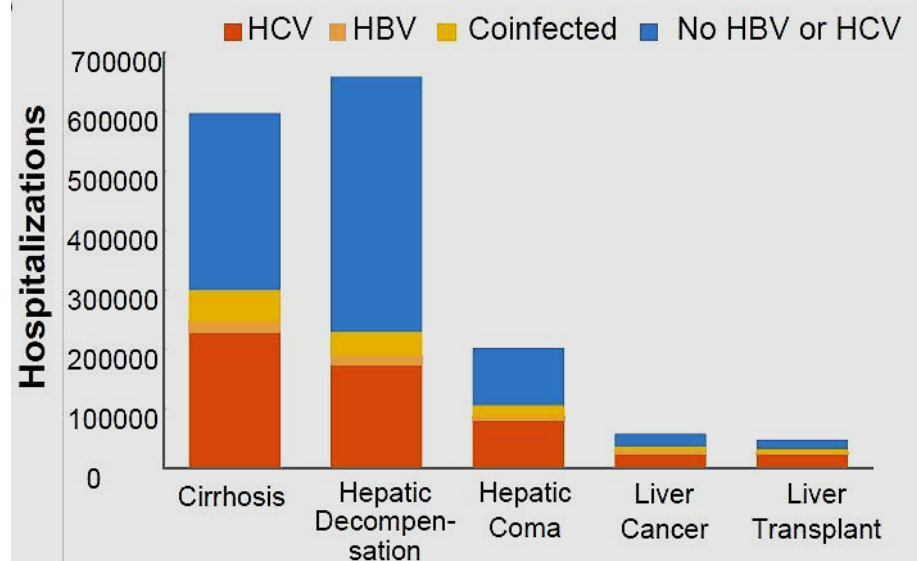
Coinfection: ≥ 1 hospitalization with an HBV ICD-9 code and ≥ 1 hospitalization with an HCV ICD-9 code

Table 1: Demographics of Patients with Hepatitis-Related Hospitalizations by Infection Status, California, 2002–2011

	HBV N = 14641		HCV N = 97152		Coinfected N = 14322	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Sex						
Male	9791	67	64846	67	9995	70
Female	4848	33	32279	33	4323	30
Other/Unknown	2	0	27	0	4	0
Race/Ethnicity						
White	4161	28	47900	49	6953	49
Black	1126	8	10135	10	1831	13
ANAI	48	0	513	1	54	0
API	6232	43	4710	5	1624	11
Hispanic	2279	16	30102	31	3436	24
Other	387	3	1598	2	154	1
Unknown	406	3	2194	2	270	2
Birth Cohort						
Pre 1945	5281	36	21520	22	2945	21
1945–1965	7165	49	67927	70	10286	72
Post 1965	2195	15	7704	8	1091	8
Unknown	0	0	1	0	0	0

Abbreviations: ANAI = Alaskan Native/American Indian, API = Asian/Pacific Islander

Figure 1: Hepatitis-Related Hospitalizations by Infection Status, California, 2002–2011



ESLD: ≥ 1 hospitalization with a cirrhosis ICD-9 code and ≥ 1 hospitalization with a hepatic decompensation ICD-9 code

Hepatitis-related death: death during a hepatitis-related

Analysis

Among all patients with hepatitis-related hospitalizations:

- Proportion of hospitalizations attributed to HBV-infected or HCV-infected patients

Among HBV-infected or HCV-infected patients with hepatitis-related hospitalizations:

- Descriptive statistics
- Diagnoses
- Cost and length of hospitalizations

Among HCV-infected or co-infected patients with hepatitis-related hospitalizations

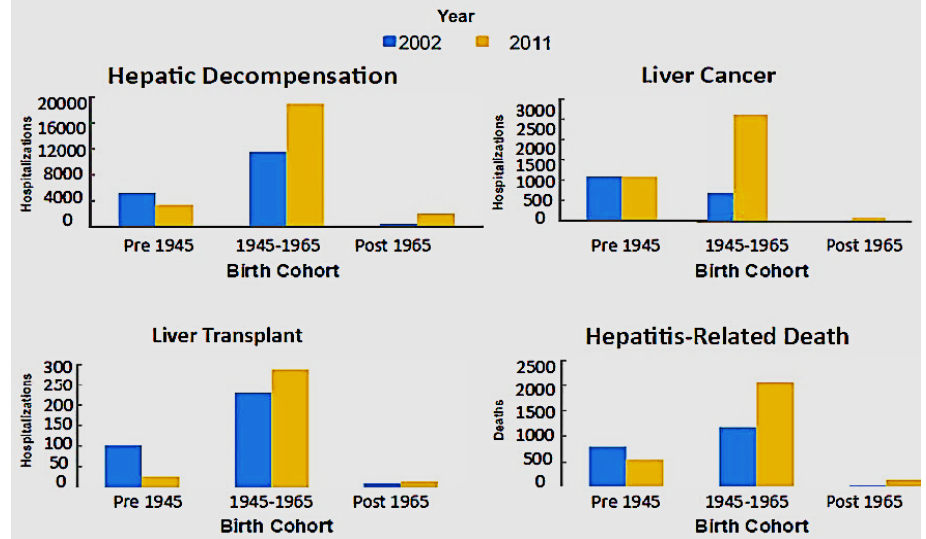
- Difference in number of hospitalizations for severe complications between 2002 and 2011
- By birth cohort

Table 2: Costs and Complications of Patients with Hepatitis-Related Hospitalizations by Infection Status, California, 2002-2011

	HBV N = 14641		HCV N = 97152		Coinfected N = 14322	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Diagnosis*						
Cirrhosis	4882	33	50062	52	7723	54
ESLD	2898	20	32481	33	5554	39
Hepatic Coma	3351	23	11208	12	2013	14
Liver Cancer Transplant	570	4	2899	3	570	4
Hepatitis-Related Death	3135	21	21992	23	3653	26
Age at Hepatitis-Related Death						
Median		59		56		55
Inpatient Costs						
Hospitalizations Days		32632		310829		71632
Hospitalized Charges (in \$ Billions)		2.471		20.020		4.315

*Diagnoses are not mutually exclusive

Figure 2: Hepatitis-Related Hospitalizations Among HCV-Infected and Coinfected Patients by Birth Cohort, California, 2002-2011



Results

HBV-infected and HCV-infected patients accounted for most cirrhosis,

hepatic coma, liver cancer, and liver transplant hospitalizations (Figure 1, 50%, 52%, 62%, and 67% respectively).

126,115 HBV-infected and HCV-infected patients had at least one hepatitis-related hospitalization; 12% were HBV-infected, 77% were HCV-infected, and 11% were co-infected (Table 1).

- 61% were male and 63% were in the 1945-1965 birth cohort
- 43% of HBV-infected patients were API
- 49% of HCV-infected patients were White

HBV-infected and HCV-infected patients had 415,093 hepatitis hospitalizations resulting in charges of \$26.8 billion (Table 2).

- 23% of HBV-infected patients had liver cancer
- 52% of HCV-infected patients and 54% of co-infected patients had ESLD
- Hepatitis-related death was a common outcome of HBV-infected and HCV-infected patients
 - 21% among HBV-infected patients
 - 23% among HCV-infected patients
 - 26% among co-infected patients

Hospitalizations for severe complications among HCV-infected or co-infected patients increased from 2002 to 2011 (Figure 2).

- Increase driven by 1945-1965 birth cohort

Limitations

Causal relationship between HBV or HCV infection and hepatitis-related hospitalization was unclear.

- Patients with HBV or HCV infection ICD-9 codes were considered infected during all hepatitis-related hospitalizations
- Cannot determine whether HBV or HCV infection

contributed to or caused hepatitis-related condition
Diagnoses and charges may not be accurate.

- ICD-9 codes are not validated
- Charges may not reflect costs incurred

Accuracy of aggregating hospitalizations by person was limited.

- Missing names and social security number information

Conclusions

HBV and HCV infections were major burdens on California's healthcare system during 2002-2011.

- Over 125,000 HBV-infected and HCV-infected patients
- Over 400,000 hepatitis-related hospitalizations
- Over \$26 billion in charges
- Most cirrhosis, hepatic coma, liver cancer, and liver transplant hospitalizations attributed to HBV-infected and HCV-infected patients

This burden is expected to grow.

- Persons with chronic HCV infection in the 1945-1965 birth cohort will develop more complications as they age.

To reduce hepatitis-related hospitalizations, need earlier identification and treatment of HBV-infected and HCV-infected persons, especially among the 1945-1965 birth cohort.

For more information contact:

Darryl Kong

Darryl.Kong@cdph.ca.gov

