

HOSPITAL PERSONNEL SERO-PROTECTED AGAINST HEPATITIS B VIRUS FOLLOWING AN ACCELERATED VACCINATION PROGRAM

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Abstract. Accelerated hepatitis B vaccination can rapidly activate immunity against hepatitis B virus (HBV) and reduce rates of post-exposure infection for high-risk healthcare workers. However, no prior Thai studies on accelerated hepatitis B vaccination were published elsewhere. The objective of this study was to measure the proportion of hospital employees who sero-protected against hepatitis B virus following an accelerated vaccination program. From 2014 to 2015, 78 hospital employees were assigned to a three-week vaccination schedule (0, 7 and 21 days). Anti-HBs titers were measured in participants' serum samples two months after the complete vaccination. The proportion of hospital employees sero-protected (anti-HBs positive) was 95.9% (95% CI: 93.7-98.1). Good-responders, hypo-responders and non-responders were 90.54%, 5.41%, and 4.05%, respectively. Geometric mean (GMT) anti-HBs titer was as high as 1,765.71 mIU/ml. This rapid immune responsiveness for accelerated hepatitis B vaccination provided high efficiency for preventing an infection.

Keywords: hepatitis B, vaccine, rapid immunization, hospital employees, health-care workers

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