Hepatitis B Care Cascade within the VA Maryland Health Care System

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INTRODUCTION
Approximately 730,000 Americans are estimated to have chronic hepatitis B (HBV) infection, but recent studies have identified gaps in HBV care. Previous studies have shown Veterans are more likely to be infected with HBV compared to the general population with a prevalence of 0.84% compared to 0.4%. Despite this screening and testing in this population is not universally done. 1-7

AIM
Our aim was to characterize the hepatitis B care cascade at the VA system. Our aim was to characterize the hepatitis B care cascade at the Veterans Affairs Maryland Health Care System (VAMHCS)

METHODS
Veterans with at least 1 positive hepatitis B surface antigen test were included if they were enrolled in the VA system and had at least one encounter at the VA system. Patients were excluded if deceased or if they had confirmed resolution of HBV infection, as defined by seroconversion, with development of detectable HBsAb and loss of detectable HBsAg. Medical records were reviewed to identify patients with chronic infection, diagnostic workup, performed, and plan of progress note

Definitions:
- Chronic HBV infection: second positive HBV surface antigen (HBsAg) result or detectable HBV DNA, at least 6 months later, or if included in the medical record.
- HBV addressed by provider: HBV listed in the assessment
- Fibrosis staging: Fibroscan®, liver biopsy, or FibroSure®

RESULTS

Demographics (number of patients)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>12 (18%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African-American</td>
<td>52 (70%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>5 (7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>1 (1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Island</td>
<td>1 (1%)</td>
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</tbody>
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Sex

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Average Age</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>61</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>62 years</td>
</tr>
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</table>

HBV Care Cascade

- 168 Veterans with detectable sAg were identified. 68 (40%) of these were confirmed to have chronic HBV per our definition. Baseline patient characteristics for these 68 veterans are shown in Table 1.
- The majority of patients were black, middle aged males.
- Almost all patients are being seen by providers for HBV.
- A large portion of patients (58, 85%) had at least one screening test for hepatocellular carcinoma.
- Less than half the patients (26, 38%) had fibrosis testing performed.

CONCLUSIONS
This analysis reveals that while the majority of patients are being seen by providers for HBV and have had HCC screening at least once, less than half of the patients have been treated and received recommended fibrosis staging.

This highlights multiple areas for targeted improvement of the care of veterans with chronic HBV.

REFERENCES

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