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Epidemiology and prevention of *Hepatitis E virus (HEV)* infection and diseases

Hepatitis E virus (HEV) infection is a major cause of liver inflammation worldwide and is the commonest cause of acute liver disease in South Asia, including Bangladesh. It is the leading cause of enteric hepatitis illness both in epidemic and sporadic cases. Globally prevalence rates of HEV infection and diseases vary by region, population and circulating genotypes, with unexpectedly high in some developed countries. HEV spreads via contaminated drinking water and food. Pregnant woman and their babies bear the greatest burden from HEV. Mortality rate among pregnant women infected with HEV has been estimated to be 5-25%. There are currently no effective medicines to prevent or treat HEV infection. So efforts to reduce the numbers of HEV infections in pregnancy in the South Asia region could have a major global impact. A newly developed vaccine manufactured by Inovax (China) is safe and effective. We have recently started a study to determine the effectiveness of HEV vaccine among 20,000 non-pregnant women in preventing HEV disease during pregnancy in rural Bangladesh. Detailed epidemiology and prevention of HEV infection and diseases will be presented.

Biography

K Zaman has been working as Senior Scientist and Epidemiologist at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR, B), in the Infectious Diseases Division. For the last 35 years, he has gained extensive experience in the design, implementation, and analysis of data from clinical and community-based epidemiological/vaccine studies. His primary interests are to conduct researches on vaccines and infectious diseases. Currently, he is the Principal Investigator of several Flu, Tuberculosis, Oral polio, Hepatitis E, Japanese encephalitis, Pneumococcal and Rotavirus vaccine studies in ICDDR, B. He has received several awards and has more than 155 publications in international journals and had 120 conference presentations.

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