



Liver Health

Newsletter of the Liver Foundation of Bangladesh

ISSUE 01 /July 2011

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World Hepatitis Day 2011

Viral hepatitis is the most common cause of liver diseases globally. Approximately 500 million people are infected with Hepatitis B or C. Both of them cause about 1.5 million death annually. This is over 10 times the numbers of infected with HIV/AIDS.

The World Hepatitis Alliance (WHA) provides global leadership and support actions that will halt the death toll and improve the lives of people living with viral hepatitis B & C. It's working hard to achieve the ultimate goal for a world with effective control of hepatitis in the near future.



As a global awareness campaign of WHA observed a day every year on May 19th from 2008 to 10. The WHA along with patients groups submitted a resolution on viral hepatitis at the 63rd World Health assembly of WHO in May 2010.

That resolution was supported by Liver Foundation of Bangladesh as one of the signatory. As stated in the resolution on 63rd World Health Assembly agreed by all 193 WHO Member States, World Hepatitis Day

will be celebrated on the 28th of July this year in honor of Nobel Laureate Prof. Blumberg, discoverer of the hepatitis B virus, who celebrates his birthday on that date.



WHA and all the affiliated patient groups, government, & non government organizations will observe this day along with WHA. More than 200 patient groups globally will observe the day. The theme of the day is "This is hepatitis...". World population will be aware about the serious effects of the silent killers, so that they can take preventive measures.

This is hepatitis...

The Liver Foundation of Bangladesh is observing the day with different awareness programs, Rally, seminar, Concert, Free screening of Hepatitis B & C, distribution of leaflets. Talk Shows on TV & Radio Channels with the participation of Govt. & non government organizations. leaflets. Talk Shows on TV & Radio Channels with the participation of Govt. & non government organizations.

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Hepatitis B Vaccination in Question: Vaccination at Birth Suggested

Major source of transmission of the HBV is the vertical transmission from mother to infant at birth (Perinatal maternofetal transmission). It occurs in about 10% to 80% cases depending on HBeAg & HBV-DNA status of the mother. Infected infants have a 90% likelihood of developing chronic Hepatitis-B. Vaccination against HBV is approximately 90% effective in preventing perinatal transmission. The dose schedule is 1st dose (Birth dose) is given within 24hrs of birth followed by subsequent dose to be at 1 and 6 months (0,1,6 months). WHO recommends this practice in countries with substantial perinatal transmission. WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) recommended in Nov 12, 2009 (EB 126/15) "All infants should receive the first dose of hepatitis B vaccine as soon as possible (<24hrs) after birth." Governments should commit to developing goals for hepatitis B control, in line with WHO SAGE recommendation.

Editor's Desk

The Liver Foundation Hospital, Sylhet *...Be a part of it*

The Liver Foundation of Bangladesh likes to expand its services to the reach of the common people throughout Bangladesh. It has planned to make liver foundation centers at the divisional head quarters followed by district levels. These centers will not only provide investigations & treatment facilities but also work for awareness and prevention of liver diseases in the region.

The foundation approached the Government of Bangladesh for making such a centre at the Divisional Headquarter, Sylhet. We are happy to inform that the Govt. have donated land near Shahi Idgah, Sylhet.

The proposed hospital will be of 200 bed initially, which will be expanded later. All these services will be with minimum cost and free for the poor.

It will also carry out research on liver diseases. This is the first of its kind in Bangladesh. The foundation stone of the proposed hospital was laid by Honorable Finance Minister Mr. Abul Mal Abdul Muhith and Social Welfare Minister Mr. Enamul Haque Mostafa Shohid on Dec. 27, 2009.

Liver Foundation needs support and cooperation of fellow citizens and well wishers at home and abroad for establishment of the hospital.

...Hope a dream will come true



Cont. 01

Hepatitis B vaccination Program in Bangladesh:

Govt. of Bangladesh have incorporated Hepatitis B vaccination programme in the EPI schedule since 2004. Three doses of hepatitis B vaccine given along with DPT vaccine at 6th, 10th and 14th week.

Controversies about hepatitis B vaccination:

A large number of deliveries are conducted at home by the traditional birth attendants. These neonates are susceptible not only to vertical from mother but also from the horizontal due to unhygienic environment and manner of conducting the delivery at home.

It is scientifically proved and reported in the text books that the 1st dose of hepatitis B vaccine should be given within 24hrs of birth. Introduction of 1st dose of vaccine at 6th week instead of within 24hrs is not authenticated and recommended. There are every chances of failure of the hepatitis B vaccination programme in Bangladesh in the present schedule.

Successful countries following the program of "Birth Dose" Hepatitis B vaccination are China, Taiwan, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam & Mongolia. Taiwan is regarded as successful countries in the world in controlling hepatitis B, where the incidence of Hepatitis B was 15-20% in 1982 and significantly reduced to <0.1% in 2010.

Recommendation of the Liver Foundation of Bangladesh:

The Liver Foundation of Bangladesh expressed its concern about the present vaccination schedule of EPI programme at 6th week instead of within 24hrs of birth. The organization reported first on May 22, 2008 to the Director General of Health services, Govt. of The People's Republic of Bangladesh. Subsequently it was discussed in the round table talk at the national press club on May 10, 2009 and at the seminar of World Hepatitis Day (WHD) on 19th May 2009. Country representative of WHO was also informed.

The Ministry of Health was informed on January 3, 2010 about the Hepatitis B vaccination in the EPI scheduled and submitted all the relevant scientific evidences and the examples of the countries succeeded in controlling Hepatitis B by implementation of "Birth Dose" vaccination.

A six member committee headed by Director Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control & Research, Mohakhali, Dhaka was formed for evaluation of the situation. It was decided on 11 May 2010 to place the recommendation by the sub committee to the NCIP on Introduction of "Birth Dose" of Hepatitis B- vaccine in routine EPI programme of Bangladesh. It should be started in Bangladesh in a phase wise manner keeping the current vaccination schedule uninterrupted. But unfortunately no positive step is taken till now for implementation of "Birth Dose" of Hepatitis vaccine in Bangladesh. The liver foundation expects that the Govt. will take step forward on priority basis in this regard.

Liver Transplant, First Time in Bangladesh at BIRDEM, Dhaka

First ever Living Donor Liver Transplant in Bangladesh has been successfully done in BIRDEM on June 03, 2010. Mr. Khaled Abdullah (29) has donated right lobe of his liver to his nephew Mr. Kazi Ershad Ahmed (42) who was suffering from end-stage liver disease following cryptogenic cirrhosis of liver. Both of them has left the hospital in good condition and they are now doing well.

This complex job was led by pioneer Hepato-Biliary-Pancreatic surgeon Prof. Mohammad Ali & his team. Well-organised planning, cooperation and active participation of different organisations was the key to this success. The first Liver transplant was organized by the Department of Hepat-Biliary-Pancreatic Surgery; the other participating departments were - all the departments of BIRDEM & OrganTransplant Unit of BADAS, Ibrahim Cardiac Hospital and Research Institute (ICHRI), Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP), National Heart Foundation, GastroLiver Hospital and Research Institute and Popular Diagnostic Centre Limited. A team of three surgeons, one anaesthetist and one Transplant ICU intensivist from Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, India has actively participated in liver transplant. The operation was performed in the operation theatres of ICHRI.



Honorable Minister Prof. Ruhul Hoque M.P., Ministry of Health and Family welfare congratulated and appreciated the first successful Liver Transplant Team. He also informed this great historical news to members of parliament in the National Assembly of Bangladesh. Mr. Kazi Ershad Ahmed has been followed up during last one year. He is back to his normal life and now he is regularly performing his office duties and looking after his business.

The Liver Foundation of Bangladesh - an overview

Background: Bangladesh, a densely populated country in the world. Liver disease is one of the major ailments which affect a large section of its population. The common liver diseases are Viral Hepatitis like Hepatitis B, C, A & E. Non alcoholic fatty liver disease, alcoholic and drug induced liver disease. The treatment of all these diseases are not only expensive but also lengthy. Even then the result is unpredictable. A large group of affected individuals dies of liver cirrhosis, liver cancer and hepatic failure. It is hoped that most of the liver diseases are preventable by awareness.

Establishment of the Liver Foundation of Bangladesh: Liver foundation of Bangladesh a philanthropic organization started its working since 1999. The aim of which are the prevention, treatment, education and research on liver diseases in Bangladesh. It works by voluntary contribution, donation. All the income of the Foundation is utilized for the benefit of liver disease patients and development of the Foundation.

Activities of the Foundation: The foundation activities are conducted at its office at Green Road, Panthopath. All the activities of the foundation are divided in progressive four phases. The final one is to establish a centre of excellence for liver diseases in Bangladesh. Hepatologists and Gastroenterologists attend the patients at the liver clinic service. Email queries on liver diseases are replied and relevant informations, leaflets are sent to the questioner as attached file in the e-Liver service. Disease related leaflets are provided to the patient at the foundation. Almost all the investigations of liver diseases done in the laboratory facilities. Ultrasonography facilities also have been started. Awareness programme, screening vaccination are continuing. All these services are available with minimum cost and free for the underprivileged.

Awareness Program in Bangladesh: Awareness program for prevention of liver diseases are continuously done by the foundation. Foundation observes different awareness days since its inception. These days are observed in collaboration with Global awareness programs conducted by World Hepatitis Alliance (WHA), Geneva. Apart from these, special awareness days

Cont. 03

are observed in collaboration with Global awareness programs conducted by World Hepatitis Alliance (WHA), Geneva. Apart from these, special awareness days are arranged in the divisional, district head quarters, universities and planning for school health programme. Free screening and vaccination of orphan children and underprivileged are continuing. Free screening of pregnant women and vaccines and immunoglobulin are provided to neonates for prevention of vertical transmission of Hepatitis-B.

Liver Foundation in the International Arena: The foundation started its international coordination first with Hepatitis-C trust and finally with World Hepatitis Alliance(WHA) Geneva. The Secretary General of Liver Foundation of Bangladesh is one of the signatory's of Viral Hepatitis resolution of WHA. The resolution was debated and accepted at 63rd world Health Assembly of WHO on May 2010. The foundation maintains cooperation and share the awareness programs of the other liver disease related foundations or organizations globally.

Liver foundation and its co-operation with the Government of Bangladesh: The foundation maintains cordial relation with Government especially for prevention of Hepatitis. The foundation made advocacy to the Government regarding the implementation of "Birth Dose" of Hepatitis- B vaccine instead of 6th week schedule of EPI programme. The Government on principle accepted the concept and agreed to implement this in phases. The foundation also informed the Government for incorporation of Liver disease specially viral hepatitis in the National Health Policy.

Donation of Land at Sylhet by the Government of Bangladesh: As recognition of sincerity and devotion for working on prevention and awareness on liver diseases in Bangladesh, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh have donated land at Sylhet for making "Liver Foundation Hospital".The foundation is working hard for it.



Family members of late Prof. Dr. M A Khaleque donated ultrasound machine to the liver foundation of Bangladesh on February 4, 2011. Late Prof. Sr. M A Khaleque was a renowned physician and honorable teacher of medicine in Bangladesh. He was an honorable life member and well wisher of the Liver Foundation of Bangladesh. He died on February 10, 2009. This Ultrasound Machine was handed over by his son Dr. Md. Khaled Mohsin, Consultant, Cardiology (Interventional), Square Hospital Ltd. to Prof. Mohammad Ali, Secretary General of Liver Foundation of Bangladesh.

Under the "Liver Health Program for senior citizen" of liver foundation, made arrangement on July 01, 2011 for the residence of Shubarta Old Home, Savar, Dhaka. All the 40 residence of the old home undergone free checkup and laboratory investigations related to the old age ailments. The laboratory investigations were done with special emphasis on Liver & Kidney functional states, CBC, Blood sugar and Lipid profile. All the residence were very happy to see that, we are by their side and taking care of them.



Prof. Mohammad Ali, Secretary General, Liver Foundation of Bangladesh and Professor, Dept. of Hepato-Biliary-Pancreatic Surgery and Chief Liver Transplant Surgeon, BIRDEM Hospital, Dhaka received the prestigious Health Award 2010-11 by 'Healthier Bangladesh' for his excellent contribution in the field of prevention and treatment of Liver diseases in Bangladesh. This award was handed over by Prof. Dr. Sayed Modasser Ali, Health Advisor at a award giving ceremony on 5th March 19, 2011. The ceremony was also attended by Dr. Captain (Rtd.) Mujibur Rahaman Fakir, State Minister of Health and Family welfare.

Liver Foundation of Bangladesh become the "Emergency Medical Service Partner" of the Bangladeshi version of the renowned internationally acclaimed reality TV show 'Who wants to be a millionaire' named as "Ke Hote Chay Kotipoti". The program will be telecasted on Desh TV. The reason behind the endorsement with this popular TV Show is to promote awareness campaign on Viral Hepatitis in Bangladesh. The host of the show, prominent cultural personality Mr. Asaduzzaman Noor will announce the theme of WHD 2011.

