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Under the auspices of:

Ministero della Salute, Regione Lombardia, Provincia di Milano, Comune di Milano, Università degli Studi di Milano, Società Italiana di Pediatria (SIP), Viral Hepatitis Prevention Board (VHPB)

Conference Venue

Centro Congressi Palazzo delle Stelline
Corso Magenta 61 – 20123 Milan, Italy

Language

English and Italian. A simultaneous translation will be provided.

CME

Credits requested to Ministry of Health will be given to the participants.

Organizing Secretary and Provider

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SEZIONE LOMBARDA

Saturday,
19th November 2011

Towards the elimination of hepatitis B

Celebrating 20 years of vaccination in Italy

Under the High Patronage of the President of the Italian Republic



Milan, Centro Congressi Palazzo delle Stelline



Viral hepatitis B is a leading cause of acute and chronic liver disease, including cirrhosis and primary hepatocellular cancer. Vaccination is the most effective measure to control and prevent hepatitis B and its severe long-term sequelae. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 177 countries have currently implemented universal vaccination programmes worldwide, and Italy was one of the first countries to introduce a universal strategy of hepatitis B vaccination. Globally a significant reduction of newly acquired hepatitis B, carrier rate, and hepatitis B-related mortality has been observed in countries where universal vaccination has been implemented. In Italy, universal vaccination started in 1991 in infants as well as in adolescents with an outstanding record of safety and efficacy. In addition, there have been considerable advances in the treatment of hepatitis B in recent years, such that today 95% of chronic hepatitis B go to remission of disease, thus reducing the risk of progression to cirrhosis, liver cancer and eventual death. The availability of both vaccine and treatment options in a concerted manner with other crucial public health measures, such as refinement in blood screening and use of universal precautions in medical setting, is a key step towards the goal of the elimination of hepatitis B. The main objectives of this anniversary meeting aimed at celebrating our first 20 years of vaccination are:

- provide an overview of the current worldwide strategies of vaccination against hepatitis B;
- discuss the long-term immunity achieved by vaccination and need for booster;
- review the global impact of hepatitis B vaccination and prospects for global control, elimination and eradication of HBV transmission;
- discuss the progress achieved in hepatitis B prevention 20 years after the introduction of universal vaccination in Italy;
- discuss how to identify vulnerable people in need to be treated and review the progress achieved in hepatitis B treatment;
- discuss the success, problems and barriers to overcome, and the way forward.

I look forward to meeting you in Milan.

Yours sincerely,

Alessandro Zanetti
President of the Meeting

Saturday, 19th November 2011

Towards the elimination of hepatitis B

Celebrating 20 years of vaccination in Italy

Milan, Centro Congressi Palazzo delle Stelline

08.15 Registration

09.00 Welcome and Introduction

Session 1

Chairs *W. Jilg, M.G. Pompa*

09.30 **Vaccines against hepatitis B: a historical overview**
D. Shouval

09.50 **Long-term immunogenicity and need for booster**
P. Van Damme

10.10 **Discussion**

Session 2

Chairs *J. Hallauer, D. Lavanchy*

10.20 **Prospects for global control, elimination and eradication of HBV transmission**
S. Wiersma

10.40 **Global impact of hepatitis B vaccination and liver cancer prevention**
M. Kane

11.00 **Discussion**

11.10 *Coffee Break*



Session 3

Chairs *P. Crovari, G.M. Fara*

11.30 **The first 20 years of vaccination in Italy: achievements and challenges**
A. Zanetti

11.50 **Role of non-immunoprophylaxis measures in reducing the burden of hepatitis B in Italy**
A. Mele

12.05 **Economic analysis of the universal hepatitis B vaccination in Italy**
P. Bonanni

12.20 **Discussion**

Session 4

Chairs *N. Emiroglu, M. Rizzetto*

12.30 **Identify vulnerable people who should benefit for prevention and treatment of viral hepatitis B**
J. Ward

12.50 **Hepatitis B: a treatable disease**
M. Colombo

13.10 **Discussion**

13.20 **Closing remarks**
A. Mele, P. Van Damme, A. Zanetti

13.30 **CME Questions**

14.00 **Meeting of the SII-Lombardia members**