

The aim of these is to describe epidemiological characteristics of viral hepatitis A (VHA) in Czech Republic. The identification of specifics related to an increase of VHA and the importance of prevention and spread of this disease is examined

The focal point of increased incidence of VHA are specific high risks groups mainly drug users. The general decrease in VHA infections among populations at large results in an increasing number of people having no antibody against VHA. The identified groups then become significant sources of pools of new infections affecting the rest of healthy population having no immunity against VHA virus.

The previous epidemics of VHA during the second half of 20th century show the importance of state legislations or local rules governing public hygiene. These include regular controls of food producers, retailers and sources of drinking water. These measures by state and local health inspectors are essential to prevent large scale outbreaks of VHA epidemics.

The study puts heightened emphases on health precautions while traveling in countries with a high prevalence of VHA. The preventative measures against VHA virus are important because the specific treatment to cure an illness does not exist and susceptibility to become infected with a virus is high. The personal hygiene such as frequent hand washing, especially before eating and after a toilet use, sound health education, access to clean drinking water and uncontaminated food are mentioned. The immunization to increase the body natural defenses against VHA virus is suggested.