

**ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND  
PRACTICE ON HEPATITIS B INFECTION AMONG  
ADOLESCENTS AT BASIC EDUCATION HIGH  
SCHOOLS IN MINGALADON TOWNSHIP, 2013**

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**2013**

## ABSTRACT

This study was a cross-sectional descriptive study of knowledge, attitude and practice on hepatitis B infection among adolescents in basic high schools conducted in Mingaladon Township, Yangon from October to November, 2013.

A total of 216 basic high school students in grade 8, 9 and 10 from three randomly selected Basic Education High Schools (BEHS) were sampled by multiple stages sampling method and surveyed by using structured self-administered questionnaire with the general objectives of assessing the knowledge, attitudes and practices on the prevention of hepatitis B infections among adolescents at high schools in Mingaladon township.

The present study revealed that the students' age were  $13.19 \pm 0.899$  years old, 55.6% of students were female and 44.4% were male students. Nearly 55% of students knew only 3 types of hepatitis. 58.8% mentioned as hepatitis A, hepatitis B and hepatitis C. Only one student could mention hepatitis A, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, hepatitis D and hepatitis E. The main source of information for students was television which was answered by almost 50% of students. About 58% of students thought that the most infectious hepatitis was hepatitis B. Only 35 students answered that the most infectious hepatitis was hepatitis C. The present study found that nearly 54% of the students had good level of knowledge about hepatitis B; about 63% of the students possessed good attitude towards hepatitis B and almost 59% of the students had good level of practice on prevention and control of hepatitis B infection.

About 94% of students knew only jaundice as the symptom of hepatitis B infection. Nearly 42% had knowledge that hepatitis B carrier could be asymptomatic. Again, more or less 31% of students knew that hepatitis B could transmit by unprotected sex. In mother to child transmission, only 38% could answer that hepatitis B could transmit during delivery. There was a statistically significant association between the age group of students and attitude level of students on hepatitis B ( $p < 0.05$ ) and the level of attitude toward hepatitis B infection and the level of practice on prevention and control of hepatitis B ( $p < 0.001$ ). But there was no statistically significant association between knowledge and attitude ( $p = 0.287$ ) and between knowledge and practice ( $p = 0.333$ ).

It was concluded that although adolescents in basic high schools had got good level of knowledge, there were some incorrect knowledge about hepatitis B infection. Improved health education about hepatitis B infection should be intensified to reduce incorrect knowledge and encouraged the school children to practice more in preventive measures of hepatitis B infection.