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VACCINATION OF HEPATITIS B IN HEALTHY ADULTS: EFFECT OF SEX AND AGE, TWO PROTOCOLS OF REVACCINATION IN NON-RESPONDERS

Jacques Choucair¹ and Sleiman Zaki¹

Hotel Dieu de France, Saint-Joseph University Beirut, Lebanon

Objective: To assess, in non vaccinated healthy adults, the response to the standard protocol SP of vaccination for hepatitis B (0, 1, 6 months), and the response to two boosters protocols in non-responders (NR).

Methods: 192 adults, mean age of 44.3 receive (Engerix® B 20 µg/1 ml) by the SP. The non-responders (anti-Hbs antibodies <10UI/l) are divided into two groups. The first group (P1) receives a single booster (R1) 4 months after the SP, and those who remained non-responders receive a double booster (R1b) 2 years after the SP. The second group (P2) receives a unique double booster (R2), 2 years after the SP.

Results: The rate of response after the SP is 75.5 % (145/192). 28 NR in (P1) have a response rate of 32.14 % (9/28). The 19 NR in (R1b) have a response of 36.84 % (7/19). 19 NR (P2) have a response of 63.16 % (12/19). 9.9 % (19/192) of individuals don't respond to any booster. The rate of response decreases with the age (5% every year and 41% every 10 years) For the same age, men are 2 fold more responders then women.

Conclusion: A unique double booster done 2 years after the SP gives a better response then a single booster done after 4 months, and a similar response to a single booster done after 4 months followed by a double booster done after 2 years. The female gender and the age are 2 factors that decrease the response to the vaccination.

jacqueschoucair@hotmail.com