



Epidemiology, Biostatistics & Occupational Health
EPIDEMIOLOGY SEMINAR SERIES
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Viral Hepatitis in Immigrants: Recognizing and Decreasing the Burden

**Monday, 9 June 2014
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm - Purvis Hall,
1020 Pine Ave. West, Room 25**

ALL ARE WELCOME

SYNOPSIS: Viral hepatitis (particularly hepatitis B and C) is a serious global health problem due to its potential to cause chronic infection leading to cirrhosis and liver cancer. It is the leading infectious cause of death in Canada and has resulted in an increased burden and cost to the health care system. For both chronic hepatitis B and C there is a 20-30 year asymptomatic period prior to the development of cirrhosis and HCC. This provides a long window of opportunity for screening and early treatment that can prevent the chronic sequelae of these infections. Immigrants have a 2-4 increased risk of mortality from viral hepatitis and liver cancer as compared to the Canadian born population. This is because the majority of new immigrants received in Canada have originated from countries with high rates of chronic hepatitis B and C however; they are not systematically screened for these diseases after arrival. This presentation will review recent data on the epidemiology of viral hepatitis in immigrants, provide a brief update on new screening recommendations for viral hepatitis and discuss rational screening and vaccination strategies for viral hepatitis in immigrants.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1.** Review recent epidemiology of viral hepatitis in immigrants
- 2.** Provide a brief update on new screening recommendations for viral hepatitis
- 3.** Discuss rational screening and vaccination strategies for viral hepatitis in immigrants

BIO: Dr. Christina Greenaway is an Associate Professor of Medicine at McGill University, a Member of the Divisions of Infectious Diseases and Laboratory Medicine at the Jewish General Hospital, Principle Investigator at the Centre for Clinical Epidemiology and Community Studies of the Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research and staff physician at the JD Maclean Tropical Medicine Center at McGill. Her research is focused on the health promotion of immigrants and refugees, specifically through measuring the burden of infectious diseases in this population and designing interventions to decrease this burden. She has undertaken several observational studies to define the epidemiology and health disparities due to various infectious diseases such as vaccine preventable diseases, viral hepatitis and intestinal parasites in the immigrant population. She has used this data to performed cost-effectiveness analyses to determine the optimal intervention to decrease these health disparities. She is a Steering Committee member of the Canadian Collaboration for Immigrant and Refugee Health, a multidisciplinary group who recently published clinical care guidelines for newly arrived immigrants and refugees.