

## **Abstract**

**HB vaccines became available in the early 1980s. They are highly immunogenic and efficacious. Currently no vaccinee has become a carrier 5 to 10 years after primary immunization; thus many investigators consider boosters to be unnecessary at 10 years of age. In 2000, the European Consensus Group on Hepatitis B Immunity issued a statement recommending against the use of boosters of HB vaccine in immunocompetent individuals 15 years after primary immunization. However, the real duration of protection conferred by HBV vaccine remained unknown.**

**In this project, we are going to test the seropositivity and immune memory of HBV vaccine in adolescents aged 15-18 years. A booster vaccination will be given to part of them and the incidence of acute HBV infection will be monitored for at least 3 yeears.**

**Up to now, we have recruited more than 5,000 adolescents for HBV seromakers testing. The results of 2,563 subjects were already available. Positive of HBsAg was noted in 49 (1.9%) individuals. We are now proceding on the shedualed steps. We will check the cellular immunities for these individuals and give booster vaccinations to part of the individuals and follow up for 3 years.**

**When the study is complete, we will be able to understand the magnitude of immunity conferred by the HBV vaccine 15 -18 years after the primary vaccination. Basis for deciding the necessity and proper timing for HBV booster vaccination will be provided.**

**Keywords : hepatitis B ; cellular immunity ; booster**