

# A study of knowledge, experience and beliefs about hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection in south western Uganda

Joseph Mugisha, Jolynne Mokaya, Dominic Bukenya, Fatuma Ssembajja,  
Denis Mayambala, Robert Newton, Philippa C Matthews, Janet Seeley

**S2 Tables: Common themes obtained from analysing responses obtained from study participants participating in discussion about knowledge, experience and beliefs about Hepatitis B virus infection in Uganda.** These represent responses from all individuals represented in the study. Note there is not a defined denominator, as there were differing approaches to approach discussion with study participants.

## Knowledge on HBV

Common themes	Number of responses	Community	Gender
Heard about HBV over the radio announcement encouraging people to be tested and vaccinated	31	15 - Site A 16 - Site B	20 - Females 11 - Males
Come across someone diagnosed/perceived to have HBV infection	30	11 – Site A 19 - Site B	19 - Females 11- Males
Taught about HBV infection in medical/nursing school or seminar	3	1 – Site A 2 - Site B	2 - Females 1 - Males
Never heard of HBV	10	6 – Site A 4 - Site B	7 - Females 3 - Males
Government immunisation programme	1	0 – Site A 1 - Site B	1 - Female 0 - Males
Read internet	1	0 – Site A 1 - Site B	0 - Female 1 - Males
Has been diagnosed with HBV	1	1 – Site A 0 - Site B	1 - Female 0 - Males
Diagnosis of HBV as a requirement to travel to another country	2	0 – Site A 2 - Site B	0 - Female 2 - Males

## Cause of HBV

Common themes	Number of responses	Community	Gender
Drinking dirty or salty water	3	2 – Site A 1 - Site B	2- Females 1 - Males
Doesn't know	12	10 – Site A 2 - Site B	10 - Females 2 - Males
Playing in dirty or stagnant water	4	2 – Site A 2 - Site B	2 - Females 2 - Males
Eating fatty foods	8	4 – Site A	3 - Females

		4 - Site B	5 - Males
Consuming alcohol	10	2 – Site A 8 - Site B	5 - Females 5 - Males
Smoking cigarettes	4	1 – Site A 3 - Site B	3 - Females 1 - Males
Use of fertilisers/pesticides	1	0 – Site A 1 - Site B	0 - Female 1 - Males
Virus	1	0 – Site A 1 - Site B	0 - Female 1 - Males

#### **Mode of transmission of HBV**

<b>Common themes</b>	<b>Number of responses</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>Gender</b>
Doesn't Know	13	11 – Site A 1 - Site B	10 - Females 3 - Males
Exposure to infected body fluids	9	3 – Site A 6 - Site B	5 - Females 4 - Males
Sexually transmitted	10	3 – Site A 7 - Site B	3 - Females 7 - Males
Mother to child transmission	1	0 – Site A 1 - Site B	0 - Females 1 - Males
Sharing of public toilets/bathrooms	1	0 – Site A 1 - Site B	1 - Females 0 - Males
Handshake	1	0 – Site A 1 - Site B	1 - Females 1 - Males
Sharing utensils, clothing	2	0 – Site A 2 - Site B	1 - Females 1 - Males

### Signs and symptoms of HBV

Common themes	Number of responses	Community	Gender
Swollen body/stomach/cheeks	18	5 – Site A 13 - Site B	12 - Females 6 - Male
Jaundice/yellowish body colour	18	7 – Site A 11 - Site B	9 - Females 9 - Male
Loss of weight/ Malnourished	13	5 – Site A 8 - Site B	7 - Females 6 - Male
Loss of hair	3	2 – Site A 1 - Site B	1 - Females 2 - Male
Blood in urine	1	1 – Site A 0 - Site B	1 - Females 0 - Male
Severe headache	1	1 – Site A 0 - Site B	1 - Females 0 - Male
Excessive sweating	1	1 – Site A 0 - Site B	1 - Females 0 - Male
Fever	1	1 – Site A 0 - Site B	1 - Females 0 - Male
Diarrhoea	1	1 – Site A 0 - Site B	1 - Females 0 - Male
Nausea	1	1 – Site A 0 - Site B	1 - Females 0 - Male
Fatigue/weakness	2	2 – Site A 0 - Site B	1 - Females 1 - Male
Asymptomatic	3	0 – Site A 3 - Site B	0 - Females 3 - Male
Doesn't know	13	10 – Site A 3 - Site B	11 - Females 3 - Male

### Treatment of HBV

Common themes	Number of responses	Community	Gender
No cure	3	0 – Site A 3 - Site B	0 - Females 3 - Male
ARVs	1	0 – Site A 1 - Site B	0 - Females 1 - Male
Long term treatment	1	0 – Site A 1 - Site B	0 - Females 1 - Male
Avoid salt	1	1 – Site A 0 - Site B	1 - Females 0 - Male
Herbs	2	0 – Site A 2 - Site B	1 - Females 1 - Male
Doesn't Know	12	8 – Site A 4 - Site B	10 - Females 2 - Male

### Community perception of HBV (Newness/oldness)

Common themes	Number of responses	Community	Gender
New infection- heard of it recently	11	2 – Site A 9 - Site B	7 - Females 4 - Males
New infection- no reason provided	1	1 – Site A 0 - Site B	0 - Females 1 - Males
New infection- not among the 6 killer diseases in Uganda	1	1 – Site A 0 - Site B	0 - Females 1 - Males
Old infection – came across someone infected years back/in childhood	10	4 – Site A 6 - Site B	6 - Females 4 - Males
Old infection – people die of HBV, but no one is bothered to know more about the infection/not aware	6	3 – Site A 3 - Site B	2 - Females 4 - Males
Old infection – learnt in school	1	0 – Site A 1 - Site B	1 - Females 0 - Males
Old infection – no reason provided	2	2 – Site A 0 - Site B	2 - Females 0 - Males
Doesn't know	2	0 – Site A 2 - Site B	2 - Females 0 - Males

### People most at risk

Common themes	Number of responses	Community	Gender
Anyone is at risk	5	4 – Site A 1 - Site B	4 - Females 1 - Males
Adults because immunisation programme targets them	1	1 – Site A 0 - Site B	1 - Females 0 - Males
Those at risk of being infected with HIV	1	0 – Site A 1 - Site B	0 - Females 1 - Males
People consuming alcohol	3	0 – Site A 3 - Site B	2 - Females 1 - Males
People engaging in risky sexual behaviours	3	0 – Site A 3 - Site B	0 - Females 3 - Males
People living in congested areas	1	0 – Site A 1 - Site B	0 - Females 1 - Males
Doesn't know	3	1 – Site A 2 - Site B	3 - Females 0 - Males

### Local name for HBV infection

Common themes	Number of responses	Community	Gender
"Obulwadde bwekibumba / "endwadde y'ekibumba" which translates to sickness of the liver	20	11 – Site A 9 - Site B	12 - Females 8 - Males
Doesn't know	9	3 – Site A 6 - Site B	4 - Females 5 - Males

**Stigma (shame/fear among patients)**

<b>Common themes</b>	<b>Number of responses</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>Gender</b>
Changes in body appearance due to symptoms of a disease can result to fear and can also limit engaging with community members	3	2 – Site A 1 - Site B	3 - Females 0 - Males
Fear of death from an incurable disease	3	1 – Site A 2 - Site B	2 - Females 1 - Males
Feeling of shame associated with sexually transmitted diseases	5	4 – Site A 1 - Site B	2 - Females 3 - Males
No shame nor fear	3	0 – Site A 3 - Site B	1 - Females 2 - Males
Can't tell	2	1 – Site A 1 - Site B	1 - Females 1 - Males

**Stigma (shame/fear among caretakers or community members)**

<b>Common themes</b>	<b>Number of responses</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>Gender</b>
Would be scared and more cautious to take care of someone with an infectious disease	8	2 – Site A 6 - Site B	6 - Females 2 - Male
Fear that someone will die from an incurable disease	2	1 – Site A 1 - Site B	1 - Females 1 - Male
Feeling of shame associated with sexually transmitted disease	5	3 – Site A 2 - Site B	1 - Females 4 - Male
Feeling of shame associated with HIV/ disease having similar signs with HIV	4	2 – Site A 2 - Site B	3 - Females 1 - Male
No shame nor fear	8	4 – Site A 4 - Site B	4 - Females 4 - Male
Care takers feeling helpless	1	0 – Site A 1 - Site B	0 - Females 1 - Male
Can't tell	1	0 – Site A 1 - Site B	1 - Females 0 - Male

### Relationship between HBV and poverty

Common themes	Number of responses	Community	Gender
The poor are more vulnerable because of limited access to treatment due to lack of resources	8	4 – Site A 4 - Site B	4 - Females 4 - Male
Anyone (rich & poor)	1	0 – Site A 1 - Site B	1 - Females 0 - Male
Can't tell	2	1 – Site A 1 - Site B	2 - Females 0 - Male
No relationship with poverty	7	3 – Site A 4 - Site B	4 - Females 3 - Male

### Distinguishing HBV from other causes of liver disease

Common themes	Number of responses	Community	Gender
Has similar signs as HIV	8	5 – Site A 3 - Site B	5 - Females 3 - Male
Has similar signs as kidney disease	2	2 – Site A 0 - Site B	1 - Females 1 - Male
Can't tell/ not able to distinguish HBV from other illnesses	3	1 – Site A 2 - Site B	0 - Females 3 - Male
Only distinguished through testing	1	0 – Site A 1 - Site B	1 - Females 0 - Male

### Challenges of HBV infection

Common themes	Number of responses	Community	Gender
Delays in seeking healthcare: feeling better/ wait until very ill/ asymptomatic	7	3 – Site A 4 - Site B	4 - Females 3 - Male
Delays in seeking healthcare: poverty/lack of resources among community members	5	4 – Site A 1 - Site B	1 - Females 4 - Male
Delays in seeking healthcare: preference of traditional/herbal medicine	1	1 – Site A 0 - Site B	0 - Females 1 - Male
Lack of prevention/diagnostic and treatment resources in healthcare facilities	4	4 – Site A 0 - Site B	3 - Females 1 - Male
Lack of competence/knowledge among healthcare professionals in managing HBV	3	2 – Site A 1 - Site B	3 - Females 0 - Male
Lack of knowledge among community members	4	2 – Site A 2 - Site B	3 - Females 1 - Male
Healthcare providers not immunised against HBV	2	1 – Site A 1 - Site B	2 - Females 0 - Male

### **Suggested interventions for improving management of HBV infection**

<b>Common themes</b>	<b>Number of responses</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>Gender</b>
Would like to know more about HBV/ increase HBV sensitization/ educating communities about HBV	11	6 – Site A 5 - Site B	7 - Females 4 - Male
Provide more access to healthcare facilities for diagnosis and treatment of HBV	4	3 – Site A 1 - Site B	2 - Females 2 - Male
Provide counselling/guidance/support for those infected	5	3 – Site A 2 - Site B	3 - Females 2 - Male
Reliance on God for protection from acquiring the disease	1	1 – Site A 0 - Site B	0 - Females 1 - Male