



## HBV and HCV Infection in Children and Adolescents

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### Message from the Guest Editors

Hepatitis B (HBV) and C (HCV) infections are the major causes of chronic liver disease and are associated with significant morbidity and mortality worldwide. Thus, hepatitis B and C have been recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) as one of the major public health problems worldwide. The estimated global prevalence of HBV infection in children aged 5 years or younger is 1–3%. According to the recent epidemiological reports, there are over 3.2 million children living with HCV worldwide. In 2016, the WHO initiated an ambitious plan to eliminate viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030. The introduction of highly effective and safe direct-acting antivirals (DAAs) has radically improved HCV treatment. Unfortunately, little attention has been given to treating children and adolescents living with chronic hepatitis C or hepatitis B. Their access to modern therapies remains limited. This Special Edition of *Vaccines* aims to provide updated information on epidemiological issues, diagnostics, and treatment in children and adolescents with hepatitis B and C.





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## Editor-in-Chief

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## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

*Vaccines* (ISSN 2076-393X), founded in 2013, now has a firm history of publishing peer-reviewed, state-of-the-art research papers on vaccines and vaccination in the broadest sense. Areas covered include, but are not limited to, novel and emerging vaccine technologies, building on in-depth knowledge of what constitutes a protective immune response. These can be new vaccines for old diseases, or old vaccines for new diseases. Vaccines against cancer and autoimmune diseases explicitly are also within the scope of the journal. Because public opinion and even government policies towards vaccines and vaccination have changed, vaccine policy and public health issues are major concerns. Climate change will also have an impact on the spread of infectious diseases, and thus also on vaccine and vaccination policies worldwide.

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