

The use of prophylactic strategies using hepatitis B immunoglobulin for hepatitis B recurrence after liver transplantation in routine clinical practice in Spain. Results of a Delphi Panel

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INTRODUCTION

- The use of human anti-hepatitis B immunoglobulin (HBIg) associated with nucleos(t)ide analogues (NA) has reduced the rate of HBV recurrence after liver transplant (post-LT)¹⁻⁴.

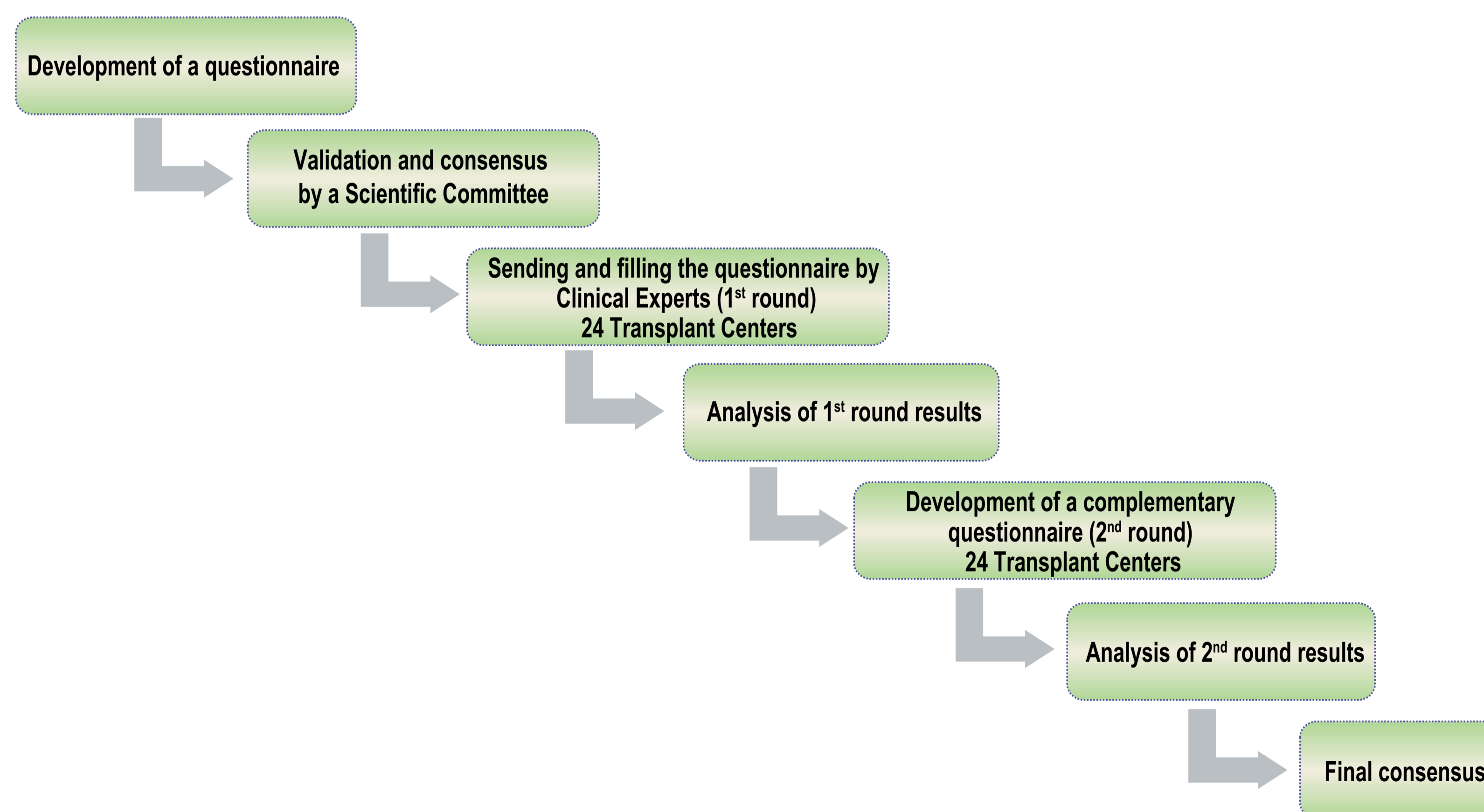
AIM

- The aim of this study was to evaluate the use of HBIg for prevention of HBV recurrence post-LT in routine clinical practice in Spain, using a specific questionnaire (1st and 2nd round).

METHODS

- A descriptive study based on an Expert Panel using a Delphi method was conducted.
- A questionnaire was developed and validated by a Scientific Committee of 5 hepatologists.
- This questionnaire was sent to Clinical Experts of the 24 Liver Transplant Centers in Spain (1st round).
- Once the results of the 1st round was analysed, a 2nd questionnaire was sent to the same experts (2nd round).

Figure 1. Delphi method



- The questionnaire included 8 sections (S-1 to S-8) with 11 questions (see results).
- Results of the 2nd round questionnaire were presented.

RESULTS

- All centers (100%) completed the questionnaire (1st and 2nd round).
- The results for each of the sections were as follows:
 - S-1. Use of HBIg in post-LT (monotherapy/combination therapy).**
 - In post-LT and in the induction phase, all centers confirmed the use of HBIg and its use in combination therapy.
 - S-2. Post-LT Therapeutic regimens.**
 - Table 1 shows the prophylaxis regimens in post-LT. In the maintenance phase, the most common treatment was HBIg plus Tenofovir (TDF) (23 centers; 96%) or plus Entecavir (ETV) (22 centers; 92%).
 - S-3. Continuity of use of NA used in pre-LT.**
 - 100% of the centers continue with same NA used in the pre-LT.
 - S-4. Post-LT patient follow-up (diagnostic techniques and periodicity).**
 - In post-LT follow-up, the most common periodicity between medical check-ups varies between 1-3 months for the 1st year (75%) and between 3-6 months for the 2nd year (96%).
 - The most used diagnostic techniques (both for the 1st and the 2nd year) are viral serology (95%-96%) and detectable HBV-DNA (86%-88%).
 - S-5. Criteria for defining HBV recurrence.**
 - The most common criteria for the definition of recurrence was serological or virological criteria (49%) or both (Figure 2).
 - S-6. Recurrence therapeutic schemes.**
 - In case of HBV recurrence post-LT, the most common treatment would be TDF (21 centers; 91%) or ETV (16 centers; 70%). Table 2 shows the suggested therapeutic schemes in case of HBV recurrence post-LT.
 - S-7. Patient follow-up of HBV recurrence post-LT.**
 - For recurrence follow-up, both periodicity and diagnostic techniques coincide with those described in post-LT follow-up.
 - S-8. Vaccination.**
 - 79% and 54% of the centers perform pre-LT and post-LT vaccination, respectively.

Figure 2. Criteria for defining HBV recurrence

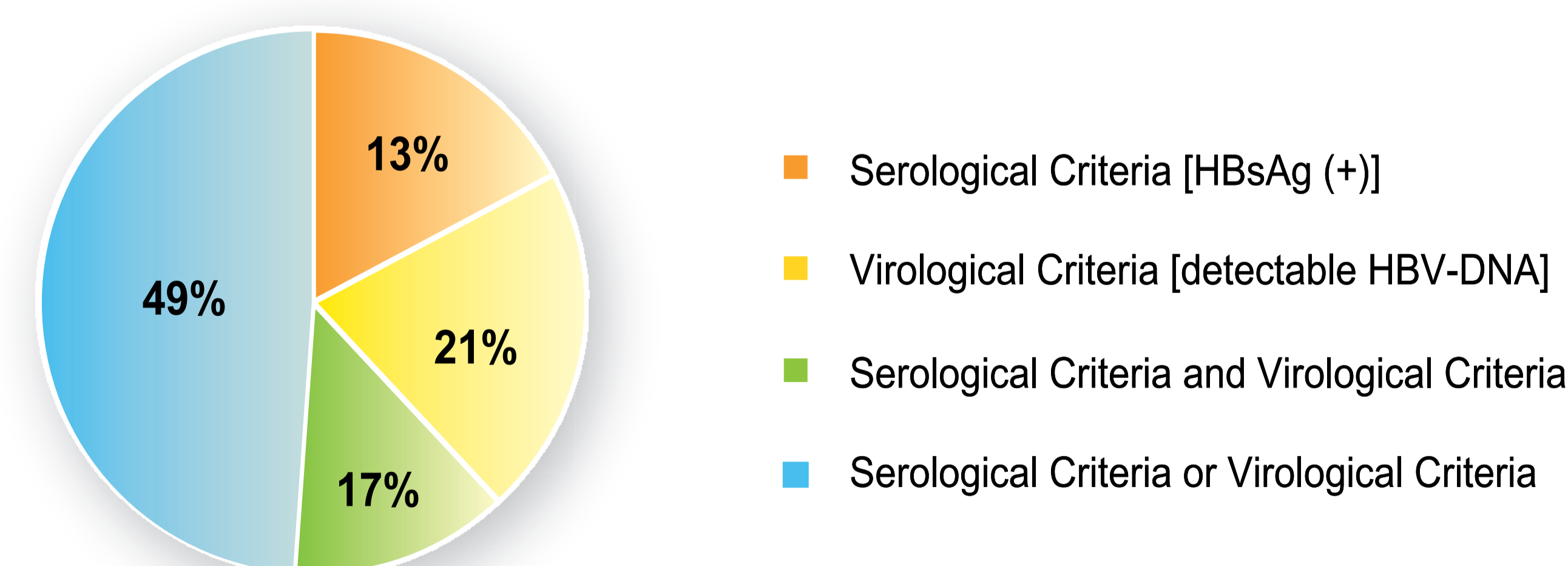


Table 1. Prophylaxis regimens in post-LT

Prophylaxis with	Period	Posology	Duration	Route of administration			
HBIg	Anhepatic (Day 0)	≤1,000 IU	12,5%	Intravenous Intramuscular	83% 17%		
		>1,000 to 5,000 IU	12,5%				
	1 st week post-LT (Day 1 - Day 7)	≤1,000 IU/daily	25%	Intravenous Intramuscular	79% 21%		
		>1,000 to 5,000 IU/daily	67%				
1 st month post-LT (Only 2-4 weeks)	≤1,000 IU/weekly	38%	Intravenous Intramuscular Subcutaneous	54% 33% 13%			
	>1,000 to 5,000 IU/weekly	58%					
Maintenance*	≤1,000 IU/monthly	9%	1 month ≥ - ≤6 months	17%	Intramuscular	74%	
	>1,000 to 5,000 IU/monthly	79%					6 months ≥ - ≤12 months
		Others: 1,000 IU/1-2 months	0%	12 months ≥ - ≤18 months	9%	Subcutaneous	26%
		1,000 IU/3-6 months	4%	18 months ≥ - ≤24 months	9%		
		2,000 IU/1-2 months	4%	≥24 months	9%		
			4%	Indefinite	43%		
NA	LAM** (11 centers; 46%)						
	ETV** (22 centers; 92%)	0.5 mg/daily	96%				
	TDF** (23 centers; 96%)	1 mg/daily	4%				

*One center does not perform maintenance with HBIg. Only treated patients until 1st month post-LT.

**% of use (average value): LAM, 58%; ETV, 33%; TDF, 45%.

The posologies were grouped by time period due to the high variability.

In bold the most frequent regimen.

Table 2. Suggested therapeutic schemes in case of HBV recurrence post-LT

Treatment of HBV recurrence	Posology	Duration	Route of administration		
Monotherapy					
TDF* (21 centers; 91%)		Indefinite	100% Oral		
ETV* (16 centers; 70%)		Indefinite	100% Oral		
Combination therapy					
TDF+ETV* (14 centers; 61%)		Indefinite Loss of HBV DNA	93% 7% Oral		
Other* (2 centers; 9%)	HBIg	500 - 1,000 IU/monthly	Indefinite 4 months	Intravenous Intramuscular Subcutaneous	50% 25% 25%
	NA ETV o TDF		Indefinite	100% Oral	

*% of use (average value): TDF, 55%; ETV, 30%; TDF+ETV, 36%; HBIg+NA, 10%.

In bold the most frequent regimen.

CONCLUSIONS

- Despite the great variability of the results, HBIg combined with NA is the standard of care during the first month in the prevention of HBV recurrence.
- Almost half of the centers discontinue HBIg treatment between 2 to 24 months.

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