

# Screening for Hepatitis B in the Leeds Chinese Community

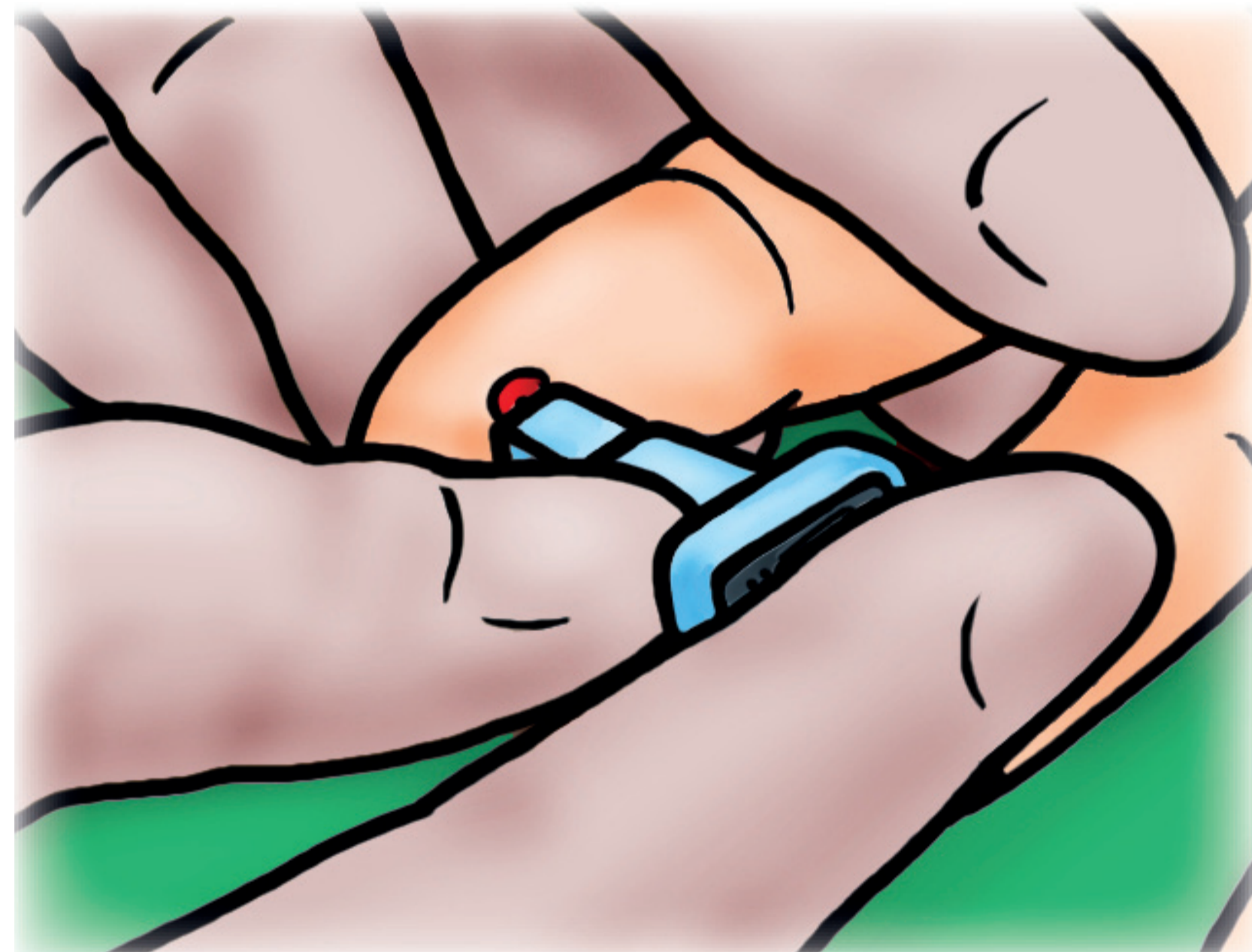
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## Background

- ◆ Chronic hepatitis B (CHB) is a frequent cause of cirrhosis and liver cancer
- ◆ 7-12 % of the Chinese population are infected with the virus
- ◆ The British Chinese community is the largest and fastest growing in Europe
- ◆ CHB often goes undiagnosed as many people have no symptoms and are unaware they are infected
- ◆ Early diagnosis and treatment can prevent disease progression

## Aims

- ◆ To engage and raise awareness of hepatitis B in the local Chinese community.
- ◆ Target churches and community centres to provide opportunistic screening using dried blood spot testing



## Method

- ◆ A promotional leaflet was produced in traditional Chinese to raise awareness of hepatitis B and forthcoming screening events
- ◆ Volunteers were recruited to help engage with local Chinese communities
- ◆ Screening sessions were arranged at local venues e.g. churches, restaurants, schools

## Results

- ◆ 245 people of Chinese origin were tested
- ◆ 19 (7.76%) were found to be surface antigen positive (active disease) and were referred to the viral hepatitis clinic
- ◆ 39 were core antibody positive (evidence of past infection) and advice was given regarding family members being tested



## Conclusions

- ◆ Hepatitis B awareness leads to increased opportunistic and diagnostic testing
- ◆ Engaging with local community leaders is essential for success of community projects
- ◆ Providing information in Chinese helps to engage with difficult to reach groups
- ◆ Dried blood spot is a suitable method for community screening

## References

- 1) McPherson et al . CHASE-B: A pilot of targeted case finding for Hepatitis B virus in the British Chinese population. Gut 2011; 60 (S2): A25
- 2) National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). Hepatitis B and C testing: people at risk of infection 2012