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01-17-91

Dear Prof Da Villa,

After writing you last week - and sending your MS to Dr Krugman - I found the enclosed reprint among many papers on my desk. This report by M.D. Alter et al on "The Changing Epidemiology of Hepatitis B. in the U.S.", J.A.M.A., 1990, 263:1218-1222 has much important information that has a bearing on your own work.

Of special interest is the fact of 2,273 cases of confirmed hepatitis B, "fewer than than 1% were younger than 15 years". Thus, successful ^(even universal) immunization of children from 1-10 years, could be expected to have an impact only ^{after} they reach adulthood (89% were 15-44 years old) - see p. 1219 - 3rd column. Please also note the main routes of transmission and changes in incidence in different places (Table 1) and different years (Table 3).

Best wishes,

Albert B. Sabin

Copy to Dr S. Krugman