

Hepatitis B knowledge, healthcare engagement and stigma among people living with hepatitis B from the Chinese and Vietnamese communities in Australia: a cross-sectional research

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Background

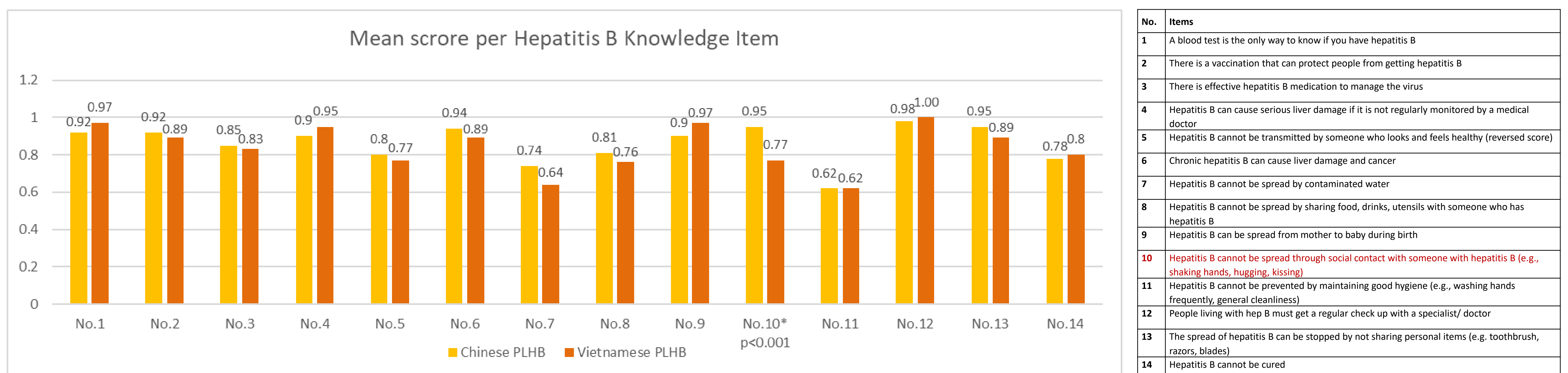
Over 70% of people living with hepatitis B (PLHB) in Australia were born overseas, mostly from Northeast and Southeast Asia. This research aimed to explore hepatitis B knowledge, attitudes, and health care engagement among Chinese and Vietnamese PLHB in Australia.

Methods

A cross-sectional survey was conducted among PLHB of Chinese or Vietnamese ethnicity in Queensland. Recruitment was supported by the Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland (ECCQ). Paper surveys were available in English, simplified/traditional Chinese, or Vietnamese. The survey included diagnosis history, 14 true/false knowledge items (scored 0–14), healthcare attitudes and engagement, and stigma experiences. T-tests and Chi-square tests were used for comparisons.

Results

- A total of 105 participants were recruited (65 Chinese and 40 Vietnamese). Most were female (56.2%), heterosexual (59.0%), born overseas (98.1%), and had lived in Australia for over 10 years (68.6%) and were Australian citizens (62.9%).
- Chinese PLHB had a slightly higher total knowledge score ($M=11.65$, $SD=2.53$) than Vietnamese participants ($M=10.58$, $SD=3.15$), $t(103)=1.92$, $p=0.058$. Mean item scores were high overall ($M=0.87$ vs 0.85 , $t(103)=0.85$, $p=0.40$). with a significant group difference on social contact transmission ($p<0.001$).



- More Chinese PLHB were diagnosed ≥ 15 years (78.1% vs. 64.5%), while recent diagnoses were more common among Vietnamese participants (35.5% vs. 1.6%), $\chi^2(4)=25.85$, $p<0.001$. Most Chinese participants were diagnosed in China (82.8%), and most Vietnamese in Australia (75.0%), $\chi^2(3)=66.55$, $p<0.001$.
- Testing was commonly prompted** by advice from a doctor for Chinese PLHB (61.5%) and via routine checks for Vietnamese PLHB (52.5%).
- Vietnamese participants were more likely to have had **check-ups every 1–6 months** (75.0% vs. 47.7%), $\chi^2(4)=10.50$, $p=0.033$.
- Chinese participants more commonly reported **Hepatitis B-related stigma** in the past year (21.3% vs. 2.6%), $\chi^2(1)=6.73$, $p=0.009$.

Conclusions

This study highlights generally high levels of hepatitis B knowledge and healthcare engagement among Chinese and Vietnamese PLHB in Australia. Group-specific differences highlight the value of targeted, culturally tailored health promotion for subgroups of PLHB from Asian backgrounds.

Disclosure of Interest Statement

Nothing to disclose.