



Fig. 1. Incidence cases  $\times$  100,000 inhabitants of acute B hepatitis in Italy. SEIEVA; Integrated Epidemiologic System for Acute Viral Hepatitis, 1985-2005.

On the basis of the reported findings, Italy is a country with a low endemic level of HBV infection. Accordingly, it does not seem advisable that individuals born in Italy should be screened for HBV infection, unless they belong to specific high-risk groups.

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## Reply:

We would like to thank Dr. Stroffolini and colleagues for sharing the recent data on incidence and prevalence of hepatitis B in Italy. We apologize that Table 2 was based on outdated data and agree that screening for HBV infection in Italy is necessary only among high-risk groups.

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