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Primary biliary cholangitis (PBC) in China and finding a novel method to treat ursodeoxycholic acid (UDCA) non-responders**Lifeng Wang and China Fu-Sheng Wang**
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Statement of the Problem: Primary biliary cholangitis (PBC) is a chronic cholestatic liver disease characterized by immunomediated destruction of small and medium-sized intrahepatic bile ducts. For a long time, PBC was regarded as a rare disease in China. Although the prevalence and incidence of PBC in China is still not clear, the number of patients are increasing, which makes it urgent to learn more about the characteristics of the disease in China. Meanwhile, ursodeoxycholic acid (UDCA) treatment is an effective medical therapy for patients with PBC, however, 40% of PBC patients showed an incomplete response to the UDCA therapy. Mesenchymal stem cells (MSC) represent a promising tool for cell-based therapies of autoimmune diseases, with few adverse effects, because of their immunosuppressive properties on both innate and adaptive immunity and their ability to differentiate into multiple lineages. Another issue of our concern is, could MSC transplantation be a novel method to treat those UDCA non-responders.

Methodology & Theoretical Orientation: By collecting the articles published by Chinese scientists or doctors, we reviewed Chinese achievements from diagnosis to treatment about PBC. In addition, based on 7 PBC patients with non-responds to UDCA, we investigated the safety and efficacy of umbilical cord-derived mesenchymal stem cell (UC-MSC) transfusion on those patients.

Findings: The number of Chinese patients with PBC has increased each year and now there is a significant and important basic clinical research on PBC in China, with major contributions in diagnostic criteria, treatment, and on basic biology. UC-MSC transfusion is feasible and well tolerated in PBC patients with non-responds to UDCA.

Conclusion & Significance: Chinese hepatologists and scientists are now focusing their efforts on PBC. UC-MSC could be a novel therapeutic approach for UDCA non-responders in the near future

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Healthcare and the preventable silent killer: The growing epidemic of hepatitis C in Pakistan**Kamiar Alaei**
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The Hepatitis C (HCV) epidemic in Pakistan has increased tremendously in recent years because of a lack of government action and little oversight in the medical field. The HCV rate in Pakistan is now estimated to be around 5-10%, second in the world behind Egypt. This study aims to analyze the main risk factors for HCV in the county by looking at different risk factors and regional trends. Improper syringe administration due to lax regulation, improperly trained professionals and the scarcity of proper waste disposal are found to be the main culprits. Given the fact that Pakistan was found to have one of the highest medical syringe injection rates in the world, this is particularly troubling. Recommendations are made to resolve these issues; including proper training of medical staff, adequate disposal methods for waste, the integration of HCV services into existing health systems, affordable treatment for HCV and collaboration between governmental and nongovernmental parties to increase awareness of HCV.

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