

Hepatitis progress, challenges, and emerging therapie.

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Introduction

This review highlights significant progress in direct-acting antiviral (DAA) therapies for chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection, detailing how these advancements have revolutionized treatment outcomes. We're seeing high sustained virologic response rates across diverse patient populations, which is crucial for eradicating HCV globally. [1].

The 2021 WHO Global Hepatitis Report highlights both progress and persistent gaps in achieving hepatitis B and C elimination targets. While some countries show commendable advancements in vaccination and treatment, significant investment and political will are still needed, especially in scaling up screening and harm reduction services, to meet the 2030 goals. [8].

This cost-effectiveness analysis provides compelling evidence for universal hepatitis C virus (HCV) screening in U.S. adults. Implementing such a strategy is not only economically sensible but also critical for identifying undiagnosed cases and linking individuals to life-saving treatment, moving us closer to HCV elimination goals. [5].

China's universal hepatitis B vaccination program has significantly reduced HBV prevalence, but challenges remain in maintaining high coverage and addressing specific population groups. Understanding these hurdles is vital for achieving global elimination targets, especially concerning birth dose timely administration. [2].

This systematic review and meta-analysis sheds light on the significant global burden of Hepatitis E virus (HEV) infection, emphasizing its widespread prevalence, particularly in endemic regions. It's clear that while often self-limiting, HEV poses a serious risk, especially for pregnant women and immunocompromised individuals, warranting better surveillance and preventative measures. [3].

Conclusion

Recent advances in direct-acting antiviral (DAA) therapies for chronic Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) infection have significantly improved treatment outcomes, achieving high sustained virologic re-

sponse rates across diverse patient populations, which is vital for global eradication efforts. Global initiatives, such as China's universal hepatitis B vaccination program, have notably reduced Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) prevalence, yet challenges persist in maintaining high coverage and ensuring timely birth dose administration. The 2021 WHO Global Hepatitis Report highlights progress towards Hepatitis B and C elimination goals, while also identifying persistent gaps requiring significant investment in screening and harm reduction services. Universal HCV screening in U.S. adults is deemed a cost-effective strategy for identifying undiagnosed cases and linking them to treatment. The global burden of Hepatitis E Virus (HEV) infection remains significant, especially in endemic regions, posing serious risks for vulnerable groups like pregnant women and immunocompromised individuals, necessitating improved surveillance and preventative measures. Emerging therapies for chronic HBV infection are moving beyond current nucleos(t)ide analogues, exploring novel strategies like immunomodulators and viral entry inhibitors to achieve a functional cure. Managing HIV and HBV coinfection is complex, emphasizing the need for early diagnosis, potent antiviral regimens that target both viruses, and careful monitoring for liver disease progression. Understanding the pathogenesis of HBV-associated hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is crucial, with research focusing on molecular and immunological mechanisms to identify therapeutic targets, while early antiviral treatment remains key for reducing HCC risk. Hepatitis D Virus (HDV) infection continues to pose a severe global burden, recognized as the most aggressive form of viral hepatitis, particularly in HBV prevalent regions, driving rapid liver disease progression and necessitating better diagnostic and therapeutic approaches. Non-invasive methods for assessing liver fibrosis and cirrhosis are increasingly important in chronic viral hepatitis management, offering valuable tools for staging disease and guiding treatment decisions without invasive biopsies.

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