

## Vitalliver - An Immuno-modulating Suppository

There are around 350 million Hepatitis B carriers in the world, of which 75% are in Asia. Currently there are approximately 0.7 million carriers in Hong Kong while there are about 130 million in China.

Hepatitis B is the main factor contributed to the happening of Hepatic Cirrhosis and Liver Cancer. Presently, there is no hepatic medicine that can cure the disease. Many of the Chinese medicines which are available over-the-counter claim to strengthen, nourish and protect the liver. But these products cannot reduce the replication rate of the virus in the carriers. On the other hand, some of the "Western" medicines produce significant suppression of the Hepatitis B virus after treatment for two to three weeks. What makes it a bit disappointing is that, upon stopping of the medications, viral load rebounds rapidly and patients have to continue the medication for an extended period of time. Moreover, virus mutation occurs in about 50% of patients who have undergone two years of treatment and thus the medications become ineffective.

Vitalliver suppository is made from the essence of natural herbs and antlers, with minimal toxic side effects. They exert their efficacy by altering the immune system to clear off the virus. This is somewhat similar to what Chinese herbalists call "restoring harmony" (fu zheng gu ben) and "eliminating pathogens and toxins" (qu xie jie du).

The followings are the results of the clinical studies of Vitalliver carried out in Pou Jiang Red Cross Hospital in the city of Cheng Du:

1. Among twelve end-stage Hepatic Cirrhosis patients, four of them took the medication for one year while the remaining eight took it for six months. All the patients have their liver functions resumed gradually. Their pains around the liver have subsided and ascites have disappeared. Eight of them have resumed working.
2. Twenty-five Hepatitis B carriers were diagnosed to be HBeAg(-). But their virus replication rate and ALT level were both high, indicating mutated HBV or genomic DNA mutation at the Pre Core region.

Upon the state-of-the-art PCR blood test, the following results were obtained:

- 22 persons HBV DNA negative ( $<10^4$  copies/mL)
- 3 persons HBV DNA positive

The efficacy was above 80% and there was no rebound in the viral load 140 days after discontinuation of the medication. In order to prove the clinical trial was correct, we randomly selected 16 samples of serum from the patients, and have tested by the University of Hong Kong again. It was found that the result was the same as the clinical trail depicted above. These results could not be matched by any other drugs currently available in the market. This marks a breakthrough in the treatment of Chronic Hepatitis B. It greatly reduced the dangers of the patients suffer from Liver Cirrhosis and Liver Cancer. It also brings hopes and an encouragement to the patients.

3. Among twenty-eight Chronic Hepatitis B patients under investigation, who were originally HBeAg(+), five of them (18%) became HBeAg(-) (sero-conversion) after six months of treatment. After the treatment viral load dropped with slight elevation in ALT level but there were no clinical symptom (e.g. GI symptoms, jaundice, etc.). This indicated that Vitalliver suppository may have a role in stimulating the body's special immune function to eliminate Hepatitis B virus. There was no relapse in the viral load 140 days after stopping the medication.

According to the research results of Dr. Wang Hao, a professor and MD of the Institute of Hepatology, Peking University, the percentage of HBeAg sero-conversion only recorded between 13% and 16% after using "nucleoside analogue" for a year (refer to a book called "Bing Du Xing Gan Yan"). Besides, on 20 April, 1999, Sin Pao reported that Hong Kong Queen Mary Hospital had carried out a clinical trial targeted 32 participants of Hepatitis B carriers for six months, using "thymosin" and "nucleoside analogue", and found that three cases of the carriers with HBeAg(+) changed to persistent HBeAg(-), efficacy was 10%.

From these information, it was found that Vitalliver suppository not only showed good treatment results towards those patients with Liver Cirrhosis, It also happened to the Chronic Hepatitis B carriers, the percentage of viral load turning negative was more than 80%. For those patients with eantigen, 18% sero-conversion was better than other currently used medicines.

During Hepatitis B infection, cell-mediated immune function is suppressed, with fluctuating immuno-modulating abilities. Neither using anti-retroviral "Western" medicines alone nor using general hepato-protection Chinese medicines can achieve satisfactory results. Vitalliver suppository has been preliminarily proved to be clinically effective in suppressing hepatitis virus and promoting hepatic cell growth. These could both strengthen the liver and improve the clinical symptoms of patients. However, further clinical studies are required before more conclusive evidence could be produced. Therefore, we will jointly carrying out a second phase clinical trial against the Chronic Hepatitis B carriers with Chengdu University of Traditional Chinese Medicine and the Department of Microbiology of the University of Hong Kong. We are thankful for the strong supports from the Chengdu University of Traditional Chinese Medicine and the Department of Microbiology of the University of Hong Kong.

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