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Is the pattern of liver disease etiology changing in China?

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Dear Editor,

In a recent interesting paper, Zheng et al. reported the presence of increased transaminases (ALT) among candidate blood donors. Authors found a prevalence of 2.4% rarely associated to anti-HCV-positivity (0.4%) or HBsAg-positivity (0.36%). Moreover, in the former group, none of the donors resulted positive to polymerase chain reaction (PCR) assay performed after 24 weeks. Finally, authors reported a reduction of anti-HCV-positivity from 0.51% in the year 2012 to 0.38% in the year 2017.[1]

Although the prevalence of anti-HCV in China follows different patterns,[2] it seems that at least the analyzed area follows a pattern similar to Western Countries. In the latter, in the last decades has been documented a reduction of viral hepatitis and a concomitant increase of non-viral causes. Among these, non-alcoholic and alcoholic steatohepatitis are the prevalent.[3-5] This could be the case of China too; as a consequence, considering that China is the most popolous Country of the World, it might be useful to evaluate these changes through population-based screening programs.

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