

New TCM Treatment for Hepatitis B

Hepatitis B has long been known to affect people of Chinese descent more than any other ethnic group in the world, with 10% of the South-east Asian population, as opposed to the world average of 7%, carrying the virus. In Singapore, for example, the Chinese are far more prone to the virus than Malays and Indians. China, in particular, has more than a hundred million carrying or infected with hepatitis B, accounting for three quarters of the world's sufferers. Although western medicine is able to vaccinate the non-infected, no cure is available to those already infected with the virus.

People infected with hepatitis B are in a high risk group for liver cancer. The hepatitis B virus will clone and propagate itself upon entering the body, eventually destroying liver cells.



Veteran Chinese physician Mr. Zhao Yanan (趙業南) has been looking into a cure for the infection for years. His findings indicate that the spleen (脾臟), the largest and most important lymph organ in the body, actually has the ability to filter germs, kill the virus directly, or produce antibodies to kill the virus. It is only the malfunctioning of the spleen in an infected person's body that prevents the hepatitis B sufferer from being cured.

From the point of view of Chinese medical science, heat or damp pathogenic factors trapped in the spleen inhibit the normal functioning of the organ, so decreasing its ability to filter or cleanse away the hepatitis B virus. The liver, whose function is to soothe the body and to purge waste, acts as a storage place for blood. The spleen manipulates the movement of internal forces, acting as the source for generation and transformation of various forces in the body. These forces produced by the spleen manage the body's blood circulation. So, according to Chinese medical science, the liver stores blood and the spleen controls it. In terms of clinical application, this means that restoring the functions of the spleen allows most of the virus to be purged from the body, leaving the liver more space in which to be cured.

In short, Mr. Zhao's theory is to treat the spleen prior to treating the liver, a new approach to the treatment of hepatitis B. He has found that a number of Chinese herbs are effective in raising the immune functions of the body, as shown in the table below:

Herbs	Function
<i>Coriolus versicolor</i> (雲芝), <i>Tremella taciformis</i> (銀耳), <i>Polyporus umbellatus</i> (雷丸), <i>Hedyotis diffusa</i> (白花蛇舌草), <i>Ligustrum incidum</i> (女貞子) and others	can help to strengthen the function of macrophage and B cells
<i>Cuscuta japonica</i> (菟絲子), <i>Polygonatum multiflorum</i> (黃精), <i>Cynomorium coccineum</i> (鎖陽) and others	can help to raise the number of immune globulins
<i>Rehmannia glutinosa</i> (生地), <i>Exsiccata se Recens</i> (乾或鮮地黃), <i>Ginseng</i> (人參), <i>Codonopsis pilosula</i> (黨參) and others	can consolidate the function of T cells
<i>Prunus persica</i> (桃仁), <i>Zizyphus jujuba</i> (紅棗), <i>Carthamus tinctorius</i> (紅花), <i>Leonurus antemisia</i> (益母草) and others	can cleanse the body of immune complex compounds that could otherwise lead to immune complex disease
<i>Milletia reticulata</i> (雞血藤), <i>Prunus persica</i> (桃仁), <i>Salvia multiorhiza</i> (丹參), <i>Carthamus tinctorius</i> (紅花), and others	are capable of improving blood circulation and removing blood stasis



All these herbs help to build up the immune functions of the body's system. Mr. Zhao also discovered that *Schisandrae fructus* (五味子)

- can lower the aminopherase level
- has a lasting effect on keeping aminopherase at a low level
- is effective on lowering the level of aminopherase in an asymptomatic carrier
- is effective on those deficient in 'yin' forces within the liver and the kidney.

By varying the prescriptions in accordance with the condition of the patient, 70% of those with the hepatitis B infection tested negative after treatment with Chinese herbs. After much experience with his patients, he has synthesized a series of compounds for the treatment of the virus.