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## Discrimination against hepatitis B in rural China: Can HBV vaccination reduce the discrimination?

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**Objective:** To analyze the present situation and influencing factors of discrimination against hepatitis B in rural China, especially to prove whether HBV vaccination can reduce the discrimination or not.

**Methods:** By using the survey involving a sample of 9269 rural adults in 3 eastern provinces of China in 2011 and 2012, we calculated the hepatitis B discrimination score and created a polychotomous logistic regression model to figure out the factors influencing people's attitude towards hepatitis B patients or carriers.

**Results:** 76.30% of the participants show serious discrimination against hepatitis B patients or carriers. The polychotomous logistic regression results suggest that participants with HBV vaccination history have lower level of discrimination, and the discrimination decreases with perceived protection of increasing HBV vaccine. Serious discrimination is also associated with low income and poor education level.

**Conclusion:** Discrimination against hepatitis B patients or carriers among Chinese rural adults was serious. Increasing HBV vaccination rate and perceived protection of HBV vaccine could reduce the discrimination against hepatitis B, and work on eliminating discrimination should pay more attention to people with low income or no education.

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## Towards *Trypanosoma cruzi* infection control by a safe vaccine: Preclinical assessment of the efficacy of trans-sialidase-iscomatrix vaccine formulation to achieve prophylactic and therapeutic effects

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The availability vaccines for chagas disease would be useful to prevent primary infection, to prevent cardiac involvement in infected individuals and even to reverse the damage associated with infection. Currently, the vaccine candidates that access more quickly to clinical trials are those based on protein subunits formulated with licensed adjuvants. However, this approach has been little explored in vaccines against *T. cruzi*. In our group we intend to move in that direction. In a recent paper we evaluate a new formulation based on a mutated protein transialidase (MTS) produced in *P. pastoris* and ISCOMATRIX adjuvant. In this work we have achieved 100% mice survival and a decrease of 50 times the parasitaemia and 5 times the load of parasite in tissues. Furthermore heart damage was dramatically reduced during the acute and chronic phase of the infection. This high degree of protection has been correlated with a strong immune response to the vaccine antigen, characterized by a humoral and cellular TH1 type profile. Recently we have also designed a new multi-epitope antigen based on a bio-informatic analysis to supplement the protection to different infective strains. Currently we are testing Trans-sialidase-ISCOMATRIX formulation with the addition of the new chimeric antigen to test it against DTU6 and DTU1 phylogenetically distant strains of *T. cruzi*. Furthermore we are investigating if injuries associated with infection are prevented when the vaccine is administered prophylactically but sterilizing vaccine is not achieved. Therapeutic use in the chronic phase of infection is also assessed.

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