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This is a pre print version of the following article:

Original Citation:

Availability:

This version is available <http://hdl.handle.net/2318/1716901> since 2022-09-19T15:55:48Z

Published version:

DOI:10.23736/S0026-4806.19.06102-0

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Journal: Minerva Medica

Paper code: Minerva Med-6102

Submission date: April 15, 2019

Article type: Letter to the Editor

Files:

1. Manuscript

Version: 1

Description: Manuscript

File format: application/msword

1 **Is the pattern of liver disease etiology changing in China?**
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6 Gian Paolo CAVIGLIA¹ *, Chiara ROSSO¹
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10 ¹Department of Medical Sciences, University of Turin, Turin, Italy
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14 *Corresponding author: Gian Paolo Caviglia, Department of Medical Sciences, University of Turin,
15 10100 Turin, Italy.
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17 E-mail: caviglia.giampi@libero.it
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23 Conflict of interest statement: None to declare
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28 Word count: 165
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31
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33 Key words: Blood donors; Chronic hepatitis; Epidemiology
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1 Dear Editor,
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3 In a recent interesting paper, Zheng et al. reported the presence of increased transaminases
4 (ALT) among candidate blood donors. Authors found a prevalence of 2.4% rarely associated to
5 anti-HCV-positivity (0.4%) or HBsAg-positivity (0.36%). Moreover, in the former group, none of
6 the donors resulted positive to polymerase chain reaction (PCR) assay performed after 24 weeks.
7 Finally, authors reported a reduction of anti-HCV-positivity from 0.51% in the year 2012 to 0.38%
8 in the year 2017.¹
9

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