

Liver Cancer

Chronic hepatitis B (CHB) is a very common disease among Chinese people. In Hong Kong, about 10 per cent of Chinese suffer from CHB. Compared with other nationals, their chances of developing liver cancer from CHB are 100 times greater.

Liver cancer is one of the most aggressive killers. Early detection and treatment can improve the survival rate of liver cancer sufferers. Many different factors are believed to be associated with the development of liver cancer.

The University of Hong Kong carried out a wide-ranging study to find out more about these factors.

The university monitored 820 CHB patients for over six years to see whether they developed liver cancer during that period. The study found that 4.4 per cent people who had CHB for about five years developed liver cancer, while the liver cancer rate among people who had the virus for 10 years was 6.3 per cent. The report also showed that men with CHB were more prone to liver cancer. Other factors were high levels of HBV and DNA , cirrhosis and age.