China's experience on treatments of Wilson's disease

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Wilson's disease (WD), also named hepatolenticular degeneration, is an autosomal recessive genetic disorder caused by defects of *ATP7B* gene. This disease occurs sporadically all over the world. It is found in individuals aged 3-80 years, but mainly in children and adolescents. The clinical presentations of WD are highly varied, mainly consisting of hepatic and neurological symptoms. Hepatic symptoms include acute and chronic liver diseases, such as, fulminant hepatic failure (also named as abdominal Wilsonian disease) and liver cirrhosis. Neurological symptoms mainly include extrapyramidal symptoms and neuropsychiatric symptoms. The extrapyramidal symptoms are dystonia and tremor. Once diagnosed with WD, the patient should have a low-copper diet and receive anticopper treatment for the rest of their life. The medicines for WD patients are d-penicillamine, sodium dimercaptosuccinate, dimercaptosuccinic acid, trientine, zinc preparation, tetrathiomolybdate, etc. Traditional Chinese medicine has also shown to be associated with significant positive outcomes in the treatment of WD. WD patients treated with an anti-hepatolenticular degeneration decoction exhibited increased copper excretion. Positive treatment effects (80-90%) can greatly improve the quality-of-life. Unfortunately, diagnosis of this disease is usually difficult . However, Thinking of it and finding out it. Over the some decades' years, an increasing number of clinical studies have used molecular genetics techniques as the clinical diagnosis index, leading to increased accuracy in diagnosis. About twenty-four thousands of WD in-patients in China have been studies at a few of University hospitals from Hefei to Shanghai.