
Cuban Vaccine Against Chronic Hepatitis B in Evaluation

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The Cuban vaccine for the treatment of chronic hepatitis B, (HeberNasvac, created by scientists from the Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (CIGB, in Spanish), is under clinical evaluation in collaboration with the French company Abivax. For several years, clinical trials to evaluate the safety and efficacy of this product are made, noted a source at the CIGB.

The clinical trial that Cuban scientists conducted in conjunction with Abivax ABX runs under the code 203, and it involves about 230 patients from eight Asian countries, with the participation of 50 clinical sites, explained Iris Lugo Carro, specialist of the Cuban institution.

So far, the study has been approved by regulatory authorities in Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Philippines and Thailand.

The clinical protocol was designed by experts of the highest scientific standards employed by Abivax, in collaboration with Cuban scientists. The research runs successfully in this region of the world, the most affected by the virus.

The Chronic liver disease caused by hepatitis B virus (HBV) is a major cause of liver cirrhosis and other complications such as ascites, esophageal varices and splenomegaly, with high-cost of health.

Each year, nearly one million deaths are elacionan with HBV infection, according to figures from the World Health Organization (WHO).

A second clinical trial was carried out in Cuba with the participation of the Public Health Ministry, to optimize the treatment regimen and route for the administration of the product.

The Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology expects that HeberNasvac will start to be used in Cuba in

2016, after obtaining the consent of the sanitary registration granted by the Center for State Control of Drugs, equipment and Medical Devices.

In Cuba, the workers related to this vaccine received the Annual Award of the Academy of Sciences on several occasions.
