

Updated Consensus Statement on the Management of Chronic Hepatitis B

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Chronic hepatitis B (CHB) infection is an important health issue worldwide. Complications of hepatitis B virus (HBV)- related liver cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma continue to account for a large number of deaths annually in Taiwan. Thus, timely assessment and antiviral treatment of patients with CHB and their periodic surveillance for HCC development is mandatory to prevent and manage the complications, and thereby to reduce the mortality. The Taiwan Association for the Study of the Liver (TASL) gathers a group of domestic clinical experts in the HBV field to review the updated knowledge generated over the past few years and revise the Consensus Statement to guide clinicians in the management of patients with CHB.

This revised Consensus Statement will include recommendations on the following issues related to the management of patients with CHB: (1) the general management and surveillance program for patients with CHB, (2) the indications (HBV DNA level, serum alanine aminotransferase level, and hepatic fibrosis stage) for initiating antiviral therapy, (3) the options for treatment (peginterferon alfa-2a, entecavir, tenofovir, telbivudine, lamivudine, and adefovir), (4) the on-treatment monitoring plan, (5) the duration and endpoint of antiviral therapy (for HBeAg-positive CHB, -negative CHB, compensated and decompensated liver cirrhosis), (6) management of antiviral resistance, and (7) post-treatment monitoring for durability, delayed response, and relapse.