

Dissemination reports are concise informative reports of health-related research supported by funds administered by the Food and Health Bureau, namely the *Research Fund for the Control of Infectious Diseases* (RFCID) and the *Health and Health Services Research Fund* (HHSRF). In this edition, 12 dissemination reports of projects related to mental health and neurology, traditional Chinese medicine, and viral hepatitis are presented. In particular, three projects are highlighted owing to their potentially significant findings, impact on healthcare delivery and practice, and/or contribution to health policy formulation in Hong Kong.

In Hong Kong, until recently mental health services had been characterised by low resources, high caseloads, and relatively heavy reliance on inpatient care. Early intervention for psychotic disorders aims to improve the long-term outcome by early detection so as to reduce delay in treatment. Previously, early intervention studies were only 1 to 2 years in duration and often conducted on a small scale. This limited the extent to which the results could be generalised. Chen et al¹ aimed to compare the 3-year outcome in patients enrolled into the Early Assessment Service for Young People with Psychosis with a matched cohort treated prior to introduction of this programme. The primary hypothesis was that the early intervention would improve functional outcome and reduce suicides and hospitalisations. Overall, the 3-year outcome in the early intervention group compared favourably with that of standard psychiatric care, particularly with respect to functional outcome and reduction in hospitalisations, suicides, and disengagements. However, early intervention did not appear to reduce the rate of relapse.

Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) has long been an integral part of Hong Kong culture. However, western allopathic medicine (AM) is the accepted legitimate local medical system. Given the important role of TCM in primary care and to foster collaboration between AM and TCM in line with government policy, Griffiths et al² investigated the attitude of Hong Kong western medicine doctors toward TCM and its integration with western medicine using both quantitative and qualitative methodologies. Some 1130 western medicine practitioners responded and diverse opinions on the use of TCM were received. Over one third of respondents used TCM themselves, and one fifth has considered referral to TCM practitioners. It appears that Hong Kong western medicine doctors emphasise evidence-based practice over patient choice when considering TCM, while many AM practitioners expressed a lack of exposure to the practice and scientific basis of TCM during western medical training. The authors concluded that better understanding of the regulations might promote more collaboration between western medicine and TCM practitioners. Establishing a platform for TCM and AM interprofessional collaboration may help the development of integrated care, which could in turn be more responsive to the health behaviours of the Hong Kong population.

Viral hepatitis B infection is a major health hazard in end-stage renal disease patients on dialysis. The direct costs of hepatitis B infection and its long-term impact on morbidity and mortality are substantial. In patients on dialysis, the traditional intramuscular recombinant vaccine (40 µg Engerix-B at months 0, 1, and 6) attains a seroconversion rate of 44 to 76%. Chow et al³ compared the conventional dose (40 µg) with an extra-high dose (80 µg) of Engerix-B vaccine in peritoneal dialysis patients in terms of primary seroconversion and long-term seroprotection. The rates of seroconversion (hepatitis B surface antibody level of ≥ 10 IU/L 3 months after treatment) were not significantly different between the two regimens. The amount of dietary protein intake, as measured by normalised protein nitrogen appearance, was predictive of the response. Thus, although the extra-high-dose regimen had no significant clinical benefit, improved protein intake may improve the immune response to hepatitis B vaccination in peritoneal dialysis patients.

We hope you will enjoy this selection of research dissemination reports. Electronic copies of these dissemination reports and the corresponding full reports can be downloaded individually from the Research Fund Secretariat website (<http://www.fhb.gov.hk/grants>). Researchers interested in the funds administered by the Food and Health Bureau may visit the website for detailed information about application procedures.

Supplement co-editors



Dr Ivy Cheung
Chief Secretariat Executive
(Research Office)
Food and Health Bureau



Dr Richard A. Collins
Scientific Review Director
(Research Office)
Food and Health Bureau

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