NTUH’s Groundbreaking Research: The Successful Treatment of a Woodchuck with Hepatoma using a Mixture of Multiple Gene Therapy

The liver cancer research team of NTUH has successfully treated a woodchuck with a hepatitis virus-induced hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) by applying a combination of different types of gene therapy. The research paper was published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences in August 2010.

In recent years, the research team has devoted itself to developing a new treatment method for hepatocellular carcinomas. Presently, they have utilized the strategy of a mixture of different types of therapy to explore an antitumor compound genes therapy, which provides better therapeutic effects and causes fewer side effects. This study shows that the mixed type of therapy has better antitumor effects on large and multifocal tumors compared with monotherapy. This therapy successfully reduced the size of a tumor in a woodchuck with hepatitis virus-induced HCC. Meanwhile, the study has also revealed neither hepatitis virus activation, nor significant changes in the serum level of liver function after therapy.

This research demonstrates that a mixture of multi-gene therapy has fewer side effects and it can be used in clinical practice in the future – providing a ray of hope for the fight against liver cancer. Currently, an application for a worldwide patent based on the result of this research is underway.

The liver cancer research team of NTUH and the specimen of a woodchuck that died from a hepatocellular carcinoma

Woodchuck model for treating a hepatocellular carcinoma

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