Effective Searching of Domestic and International Registration Sites for Clinical Trials to Assess Development Status of Novel Drugs for Chronic Hepatitis C

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Summary

Background and Objective: Both international and Japanese internet sites for registration of clinical trial data are available, and may include information not only on outcome of individual trials, but also on progress in clinical studies or development of novel drugs. To illustrate the value of these sites for doctors and patients, we searched for data on chronic hepatitis C.

Methods: We searched for clinical trials and clinical studies related to chronic hepatitis C in domestic and international trial registration sites.

Results: In the international site run by the World Heath Organization, 7,934 clinical trials or studies were identified using the search term “hepatitis” on October 1st 2011. Among them, the search term “Japan” was associated with 163. In a Japanese site, 139 clinical trials or studies were found by searching for “hepatitis” on October 1st 2011. Three clinical trials or studies were found only on the domestic site, while 19 were found only on the international site. The first anti-hepatitis C drug, Telaprevir, has already been approved in Japan. A second drug is under development in Japan with an estimated trial completion date of December 2012. Trial identification numbers were useful to classify the search results efficiently.

Conclusion: It is important to use both domestic and international trial registration sites to obtain comprehensive information about current developments in clinical trials and treatments.

Key words

Hepatitis C virus (HCV), Directly acting antivirals (DAA), Telaprevir, Clinical trials