

A noninvasive serologic model using an intelligent informatic solution to enhance clinical decision-making and improve patient safety.

Cancer. That 5-letter word that can change everything. Now imagine that a cancer diagnosis doesn't have to be a death sentence because it was caught early. An integrated clinical care team at the Second Norman Bethune Hospital of Jilin University has that vision, where hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) can be screened for and identified early in high-risk patients, enabling early treatment and better outcomes.

In China, HCC is 4th most common malignant tumor, with a 5-year survival rate of only 12.1%. Recognizing that early identification and treatment of patients at risk of HCC and/or those with early stage cancer can improve survival, the integrated clinical care team at the Second Norman Bethune Hospital of Jilin University sought to implement a new screening program using the ASAP model to maximize identification of high-risk patients, while protecting precious healthcare dollars.

The ASAP model is a risk stratification tool that uses serological tests and demographics (age, sex, AFP, and PIVKA-II) to predict the presence of HCC. The model itself was validated in a large, multicenter Chinese cohort study in 2019, and is considered a convenient, relatively noninvasive, and easily available tool that has been shown to accurately predict the presence of HCC.

Following implementation of the ASAP model into their new diagnostic pathway, this team was able to improve patient safety and reduce unnecessary invasive examinations, while also maximizing the diagnosis and treatment for patients, all at reduced costs. For their efforts and outcomes, this integrated clinical care team was awarded the UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Recognition of Achievement. Congratulations to Chunmei Hu, Vice Director, Oncology/Hematology, Yang Yongsheng, Director Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Surgery, Zhenjin Jin, Director, Hepatobiliary & Pancreatic Medicine Yinlong Zhao, Director, Nuclear Medicine, Yan Zhao, Director, Physical Examination.

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From left to right: Chunmei Hu, Yang Yongsheng, Zhenjin Jin, Yinlong Zhao, Yan Zhao