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Medical Briefs



Seminar reviews HCV treatment, prevention methods

A seminar was held recently in Alexandria to select the most up-to-date treatment techniques for patients with hepatitis C virus.

It was attended by a number of hepatologists from Mansura, Alexandria, Kafr el-Sheikh and Behira governorates.

Dr Yussri Taher, Professor of Hepatology, Alexandria University said that HCV is now being discussed on the national and international levels.

"HCV is widespread among Egyptians, especially genotype four", he said.

According to World Health Organisation (WHO) statistics 40,000 people die annually of HCV and there are between 170,000 and 200,000 new cases annually.

Dr Taher pointed out that treatment was not the only goal of the seminar. Prevention was the main element. The seminar sought to raise awareness of the seriousness of the disease and provide people with a chance to take part in awareness campaigns under the auspices of formal and informal institutions.

As well as highlighting new treatments for HCV, the seminar reviewed

the therapeutic outcomes for patients who were most recently treated for the disease and how to prevent the virus mutating in the future.

Dr Taher said that the best available medications to cure HCV would now be used following observation of their effectiveness during trials that had been carried out.

Training for new medical graduates

THE Ministry of Health and Population has announced it will carry out a training programme for 540 junior doctors.

According to the head of the Central Department for Health Care, Dr Soad Abdel Maguid, the programme will be implemented in several stages in the governorates. It covers training courses in primary care, family medicine, integrated care of the child's health, care of those with special needs, family planning, maternity and childhood care, basics of sonar in the care of pregnancy, first aid and life-saving techniques, as well as administrative skills.

The Spokesman of the Ministry, Dr Khaled Megahed, said that the ministry was interested in strengthening the skills of newly graduated doctors in the various health facilities.