

China hep B market to touch \$1.4 bn by 2024'

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Singapore: China will remain the largest major hepatitis B market over the next decade, rising from just under \$923 million in 2014 to over \$1.4 billion by 2024, representing a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 4.4 percent, according to research and consulting firm GlobalData.

The company's report, which covers the eight major markets (8MM) of the US, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, the UK, Japan and China, states that China will continue to dominate the hepatitis B treatment space, as its market share rises from 38.8 percent in 2014 to 47.2 percent by 2024.

Daian Cheng, GlobalData's analyst covering Infectious Disease, said that hepatitis B market trend will be largely down to natural population growth and China's huge and increasing drug-treated population, which currently makes up 80 percent of treated cases across the 8MM.

Cheng explained, "China's proportion of treated cases is much higher than its market share because hepatitis B therapeutics cost much less compared with other regions. Indeed, it is the sheer increase in the number of drug-treated patients that will drive market growth.

Despite the relatively high rates of hepatitis B among the Chinese population, infants are screened for the infection as part of health checks at birth, and at various points throughout their lives, a practice which is mostly organized by schools and employers.

Cheng explained, "There are clear efforts being made in China to improve screening and public awareness. However, GlobalData anticipates that poorer citizens will have limited access to drugs and information over the forecast period, which will be a barrier to market growth and perpetuate the country's hepatitis B problem."