



Short communication

Eating rabbit meat and blood cannot cure asthma

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Asthma is a complicated chronic airway disease that characterized by structural and functional changes responsible for airway hyperresponsiveness and usually reversible airway obstruction. Allergic asthma is widely triggered by an immune-inflammatory response driven by Th2 lymphocytes and these cells contribute to the pathogenesis of asthma, thus worsening its severity. Airway hyperresponsiveness, goblet cell hyperplasia, mucus hypersecretion and eosinophilic inflammation are orchestrated by Th2 cytokines such as IL-4, 5 and 13. In the allergic asthma, these exacerbations can be caused by allergens. Its prevalence is continuously increasing worldwide. In some countries, asthmatic subjects who are affected by the severe subtypes of the disease, having a poor quality of life and patients with uncontrolled asthma exhibit have a high risk of morbidity and mortality. Therefore, in low income countries, patients with severe asthma are not given enough health care services, and they use the local recommendations according to socio-economic reasons [1].

Inside of developed drugs, traditional medicines are used to control and manage of asthma. According to the unofficial reports, in some area of some countries such as Iran, local people believe that eating rabbit meat and blood can completely cure asthma. According to recent searches, there is no evidence that show rabbit meat or blood have benefit effect in cure or control of asthma (Figure 1). This treatment is wrong and unscientific protocol.

There are many similar treatments in most countries. In Indian, thousands of people with asthma travel to Hyderabad where the medicine is delivered free to the asthmatic patient in the mouth of a live fish. The hedgehog's meat is eaten by some asthmatic patient to completely cure of asthma attack [2,3]. Wild animal meat allergy and zoonoses infectious diseases transmitting are other harmful result of these treatments and are dangerous approach in public health. Inadequate fund for prolonged treatment, inadequate health care facilities,

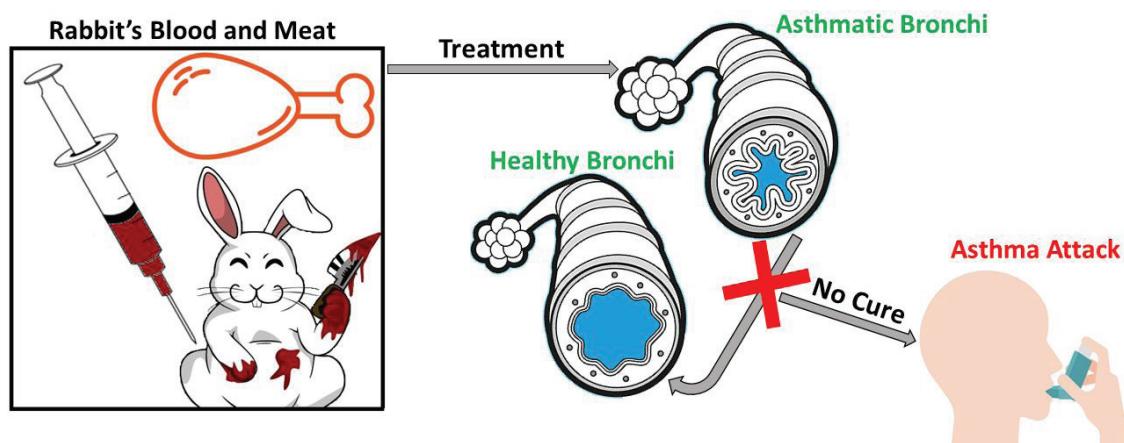


Figure 1: Some local people believe that eating rabbit meat or blood can cure asthma. But there isn't evidence that approve rabbit meat or blood can cure asthma and this treatment has no benefit effect in control of asthma.



poor medical infrastructure, insufficient para-medical staff, high cost of drugs, Poor level of literacy, poverty, distrust for doctors, fear of social stigma, lure for homeopathy and wrong traditional treatment have increased these behaviors and encouraged local peoples for self-treatment of asthma [4,5]. Therefore, we have duty to increase people's knowledges, prevent these unscientific treatments and similar methods, keep safe animal and improve animal rights ethics, stop animal hunting, and also, lead asthmatic patients to receive correct treatment.

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