

China Leads Global CAR-T Trials

82% of in vivo therapies tested there — a governance shift in innovation.

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THE DATA

82%

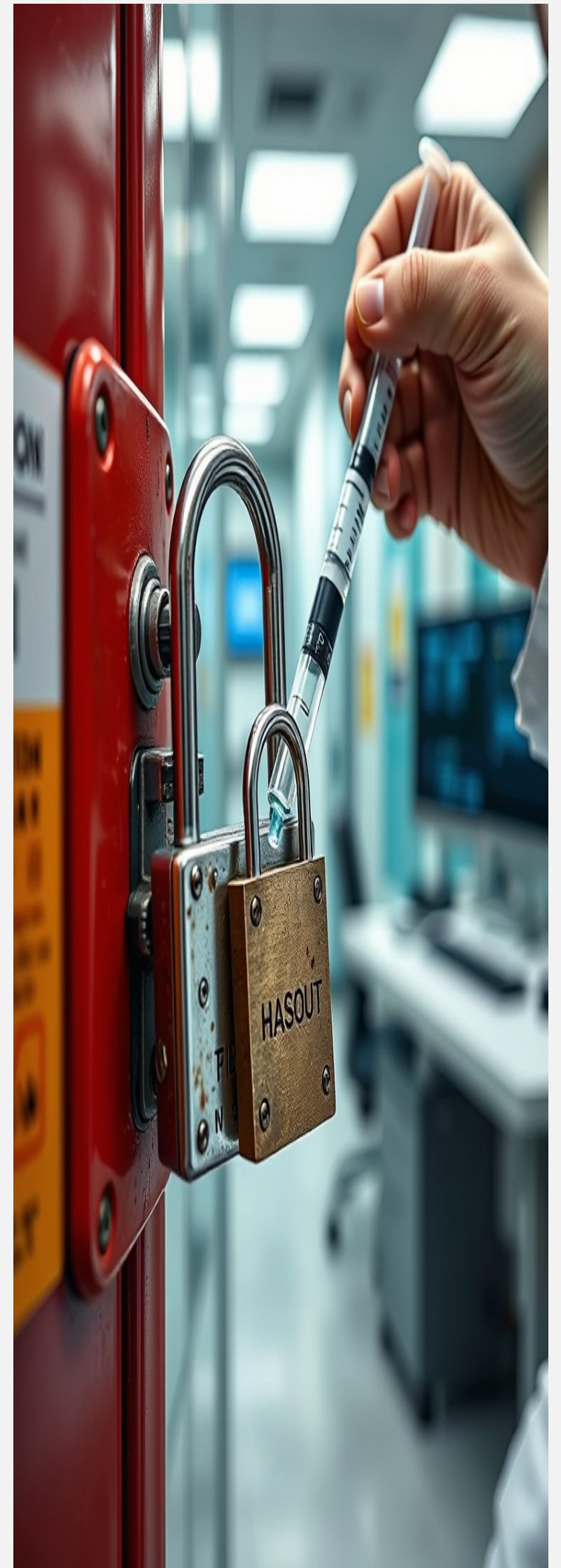
In Vivo CAR-T Trials Developed in China

Of the 140 global in vivo CAR-T therapies in animal and human trials, China leads with the vast majority.

This statistic reflects a systemic shift: China is not just participating in cutting-edge biotech — it is setting the pace. The country's fast-track regulatory pathway, known as investigator-initiated trials (IITs), enables researchers to move from lab to patient rapidly, bypassing traditional oversight bottlenecks. This model prioritizes speed and real-world evidence over bureaucratic delay.

Source: Nature · Published September 28, 2026

https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-026-03004-3?error=cookies_not_supported&code=2a3cebc0-8d2a-4159-9ba7-f1a3ba0133a0



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Speed as a Governance Strategy

China's success in CAR-T innovation stems not from better science, but from a governance model that treats clinical trial speed as a strategic asset. By enabling IITs without pre-market regulatory supervision, China creates a feedback loop: rapid trial data informs development, which accelerates further trials. This is a direct parallel to AI safety — where fast, real-world testing under ethical guardrails may yield better long-term outcomes than delayed, overly cautious regulation.

02

Decentralized Innovation Outpaces Central Control

The dominance of China in in vivo CAR-T development underscores a deeper truth: when innovation is decentralized and incentivized through fast-tracked access, it can outpace centralized, top-down systems. This challenges the traditional AI safety model, which often assumes that central oversight is necessary for ethical control. Instead, the CAR-T case suggests that distributed, evidence-driven governance — where safety emerges from iteration, not pre-approval — may be more effective for high-risk, high-reward technologies.

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