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### Abstract

#### Prevalence of Antibody to Hepatitis C Virus among the Employees and Their Partners in Korea

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**Objective:** This study was performed to determine the prevalence and age-adjusted prevalence of anti-HCV antibody among the employees and their partners in Korea, and whether prevalence varies with job type.

**Methods:** The blood serum of 29,278 people, employees and their partners aged between 20 and 60 residing in Seoul or Kyung-gee province, were tested with Immunoradiometric Assay (IRMA) method using third generation anti-HCV serum.

**Results:** Twenty-five among the 29,278 people tested positive; a prevalence rate of 0.9 per 1,000 (95% CI 0.6~1.3). The prevalences of different age groups were 0, 0.5, 1.3, and 4.2 per 1,000 among the subjects in their 20s, 30s, 40s and 50s respectively, which shows the increasing rate of prevalence with age. Age adjusted prevalence among employees was 1.3 per 1,000.

The prevalences among different kinds of job were 1.9 per 1,000 (95% CI: 0.5 ~ 7.0) for construction, 1.7 per 1,000 (95% CI: 0.7 ~ 3.9) for finance, and 1.2 per 1,000 (95% CI: 0.2 ~ 6.6) for telecommunication. No significant statistical difference was found in the prevalence according to job type( $p>0.05$ ).

**Conclusions:** Employees in Korea showed a lower prevalence rate of anti-HCV antibody than that of blood donors, health screening examinees and the general population. This result is in line with that of other studies abroad and is considered to be because employees may have lower rates of Hepatitis C risk activities, such as needle sharing, than unemployed.

**Key Words:** Anti-HCV, Age-adjusted prevalence

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C (HCV) 1989 Chiron  
 Choo (1989) non-A, non-B genome cloning 가 가 . C  
 , 9.4Kb ,  
 3,030 RNA  
 (Houghton et al., 1993; Hijikata et al., 1991). non-A, non-B 1.  
 C  
 (Jeffers et al., 1992; Villarejos et al., 1975), 2001 1 12  
 A E 42,378 ,  
 C B , D , G 37,578 (88.7%) C  
 가 (Anti-HCV) . 37,578  
 (Linnen et al. 1996; Uchida et al. 1994), 20 , 60  
 C B 29,278 ( 20,240 , 9,038  
 (Dienstag & )  
 Isselbacher, 1998; Alter et al., 1992; 20 , 60  
 Esteban et al., 1991; Alberti et al., 1991) 6,465 ( 3,375 , 3,090 )  
 C  
 C  
 1~2%( , 1994; 2.  
 , 1994; , 1993; ,  
 1992; , 1991; , 1990;  
 , 1990) , anti-HCV , 가  
 0.9~1.77%( , -70 가  
 1998; , 1995; , 1994; . Anti-HCV 3  
 , 1994; , 1993; Kim et al., 1992)  
 HCV  
 (1995) (Immunoradiometric Assay, IRMA)  
 , HCV  
 (1995) 가 , <sup>125</sup>I .  
 C C  
 가 . HCV - <sup>125</sup>I  
 HCV .  
 C  
 C  
 , (Hollinger et al., 1971;

**Table 1.** Distribution of subjects by age, sex and group N(%)

Age (year)	Group-based subject			Individual-based subject		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
20~29	325(1.6)	1,470(16.3)	1,795(6.1)	189(5.6)	240(7.8)	429(6.6)
30~39	12,555(62.0)	5,470(60.5)	18,025(61.6)	960 (28.4)	786(25.4)	1,746(27.0)
40~49	6,371(31.5)	1,889(20.9)	8,260(28.2)	1,301(38.6)	1,089(35.2)	2,390(37.0)
50~59	989(4.9)	209(2.3)	1198(4.1)	925(27.4)	975(31.6)	1,900(29.4)
Total	20,240(100.0)	9,038(100.0)	29,278(100.0)	3,375(100.0)	3,090(100.0)	6,465(100.0)

**Table 2.** Distribution of subjects by age and type of business N(%)

Age (year)	Manufacturing industry	Service	Financial business	Wholesale business	Construction industry	Communication business	Others
20~29	1,237(6.7)	166(5.2)	49(1.7)	55(4.3)	5(0.5)	145(17.1)	138(8.7)
30~39	12,861(70.0)	1,848(57.8)	1,162(39.2)	587(45.8)	351(34.0)	572(67.5)	644(40.6)
40~49	3,911(21.3)	955(29.9)	1,503(50.6)	555(43.3)	597(57.7)	121(14.3)	618(40.0)
50~59	355(1.9)	228(7.1)	254(8.6)	85(6.6)	81(7.8)	10(1.2)	185(11.7)
Total	1,8364 (100.0)	3,197(100.0)	2,968(100.0)	1,282(100.0)	1,034(100.0)	848(100.0)	1,585 (100.0)

Aach et al., 1968). (69.2%), 9,064 (30.8%) 가  
 (cut off value) , 38.1(±5.9) ,  
 C 35.2(±6.1)  
 (p>0.05).  
 40 가 2,390  
 3. (37.0%) 가 , 50 (29.4%), 30  
 (27.0%)  
 SPSS 10.0 Epiinfo 2000 43.6(±9.1)  
 t-test, <sup>2</sup> test <sup>2</sup> for 3375 (52.2%), 3090 (47.8%)  
 linear trend test , 가 , 43.5(±9.0)  
 2000 , 43.8(±9.3)  
 (p>0.05).  
 (p<0.01)(Table 1).  
 351 ,  
 1. (93.6%) .  
 (62.6%) 가 ,  
 (10.9%), (7.3%), (3.5%) .  
 30 ~ 40 (89.8%) , 30 ~ 40 (80.6 ~ 91.7%)  
 37.2(±6.1) . 20,371 , (p>0.05)(Table 2).

**Table 3.** Prevalence of anti-HCV among group- and individual-based subject by age and sex (/1,000)

Group Age (year)	Group-based subject				Individual-based subject			
	Male	Female	Total	95% CI	Male	Female	Total	95% CI
20~29	0	0	0		0	0	0	
30~39	0.3	0.9	0.5	(0.3~0.9)	0	2.5	1.1	(0.3~4.2)
40~49	1.1	2.1	1.3	(0.7~2.4)	3.8	0.9	2.5	(1.2~5.5)
50~59	4.0	4.8	4.2	(1.8~9.7)	7.6	9.2	8.4	(5.2~13.6)
Crude rate	0.7	1.1	0.9	(0.6~1.3)	3.6	3.9	3.7	(2.5~5.5)
Age-adjusted prevalence*/1,000	1.1	1.8	1.3		2.1	3.2	2.6	

\* the age group of 20s and 30s were combined

<sup>2</sup> for linear trend p<0.05

Mantel-Haenszel <sup>2</sup>-test p<0.05

**Table 4.** Prevalence of anti-HCV by age and types of business (/1,000)

Age (year)	Type of job	Manufacturing industry	Service	Financial business	Wholesale business	Construction industry	Communication business
20~29		0	0	0	0	0	0
30~39		0.5	0.5	0.9	0	0	0
40~49		1.3	1.0	1.3	0	3.4	8.3
50~59		5.6	0	7.9	0	0	0
Crude rate(95% CI)		0.7 (0.4~1.2)	0.6 (0.2~2.3)	1.7 (0.7~3.9)	0	1.9 (0.5~7.0)	1.2 (0.2~6.6)

2. , C 1000 3.6 (95% CI: 2.0 ~ 6.2), 1000 3.9 (95% CI: 2.2 ~ 6.8) (p>0.05). 30 , 40 , 50 C 1000 1.1, 2.5, 8.4 , 29,278 25 1000 가 가 0.9 (95% CI: 0.6 ~ 1.3) . (p<0.05). 1000 0.7 (95% CI: 0.4 ~ 1.2), 1000 1.1 (95% CI: 0.6 ~ 2.0) (p>0.05). 20 C 30 , 40 , 50 0 , 20 가 1000 0.5, 1.3, 4.2 , 20 30 가 가 C 1000 1.3 . (p<0.05)(Table 3). C C 6,465 24 1000 1000 1.1 , 1000 1.8 . 3.7 (95% CI: 2.5 ~ 5.5) . C

**Table 5.** Comparison of liver function test among group-and individual-based subject by sex

Group Abnormal LFT	Group-based subject	Individual-based subject	p-value
<b>Male</b>			
AST > 40(IU/L)	5.1%	7.0%	<0.001
ALT > 40(IU/L)	17.4%	19.2%	<0.001
rGTP > 63(IU/L)	7.4%	12.8%	<0.001
<b>Female</b>			
AST > 35(IU/L)	2.2%	4.0%	<0.001
ALT > 35(IU/L)	3.5%	6.4%	<0.001
rGTP > 35(IU/L)	1.6%	4.7%	<0.001

Mantel-Haenszel  $\chi^2$ -test**Table 6.** Comparison of abnormal liver function test among group-based subject, individual-based subject and general population at the age between 20 and 60 by sex

Group Abnormal LFT	Abnormal LFT**	Odds ratio (95% CI)
<b>Male</b>		
Group-based subject	17.9%	0.511 (0.469~0.661)
Individual-based subject	20.1%	0.589 (0.525~0.558)
General population*	29.9%	1
<b>Female</b>		
Group-based subject	4.0%	0.282 (0.237~0.335)
Individual-based subject	7.3%	0.508 (0.415~0.623)
General population*	12.8%	1

Mantel-Haenszel  $\chi^2$ -test

\* 1998 National nutrition and health survey

\*\* Male: AST &gt; 40(IU/L) or ALT &gt; 40(IU/L), Female: AST &gt; 35(IU/L) or ALT &gt; 35(IU/L)}

1000 2.6 , 1000 2.1 ( $p > 0.05$ ).  
 , 1000 3.2 . C  
 C  
 ( $p < 0.05$ )(Table 3). 0 가 가  
 (Table 4).  
 3. C  
 C  
 1,034 2 C (HCV) positive  
 1000 1.9 (95% CI: 0.5~7.0), polarity single stranded RNA  
 1000 1.7 (95% CI: 0.7~3.9), 9.4Kb , 5'-untranslated region,  
 1000 1.2 (95% CI: 0.2~6.6) , (structural protein) coding  
 C 가 (core, envelope1, envelope2),

(nonstructural protein) coding T B  
(NS2, NS3, NS4A/B, NS5A/B) 3'-  
untranslated region  
(Houghton et al., 1993). C

( , 1998).  
aminotransferase (ALT)  
50%  
(genotypes 1-9) 30가  
(subgroup) 가 (Alter 1990; Koretz et al., 1980),  
(Bukh et al., 1995). HCV-RNA  
80~90% 가  
HCV PCR (Alter & Seeff, 1993).  
(1989) Kuo cloning HCV 가 HCV  
C100-3 (anti- HCV  
C100-3) 1989 (Anti-HCV)

. Koretz (1980) 80  
core 6~8 16 10%가  
non-A, non-B , 20%가 . Sanchez-  
20~30% Tapias (1988)  
core 가 2 13~15% ,  
2~7% , 4~9%  
, 가 NIH  
3 33 8  
, 8 3  
(Reesink et al 1993), HCV 3  
가 (Berman et al., 1979).  
HCV RNA가 , 20 , 60  
anti-HCV anti-HCV  
(Kuo et al., 1989). 1000 0.9 (95% CI: 0.6~1.3)  
3 HCV , 1000 1.3  
(Immunoradiometric assay, IRMA)  
anti-HCV , anti-HCV anti-HCV 1~2%(  
61 가 24 reverse 1994; 1994; 1993;  
transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction (RT- 1992; 1991; 1990;  
PCR) 21 HCV-RNA 1990),  
87.5% , 0.9~1.77%( 1998;  
(1995) EIA 1995; 1994; 1994;  
66.7% . 1993; Kim YS et al., 1992)  
C 가 가  
, C  
가 .  
EIA anti-HCV

3  
anti-HCV  
(IRMA)  
C100-3

EIA  
RT-PCR  
HCV  
Hiroshi  
RIA  
86%  
EIA  
C  
RT-PCR  
(1995)  
66.7%

87.5%

EIA

가

C

가

가

가

가

가

anti-HCV

anti-HCV

(Table 5).

가

가

가

가

C

가

가

가

1/2

C

C

가가

C

가

, 1995;

anti-HCV

가

, 1995;

, 1993; Kim YS et al., 1992)

1998  
(, 1999) 20 60  
0.51  
(95%CI 0.469~0.661), 0.28 (95%CI  
0.237~0.335) (Table 6),

20 60  
3.7(95% CI: 2.5~5.5)  
1000 2.6  
C  
1000

1998  
(, 1999) 20 60  
가  
0.59  
(95%CI 0.525~0.558), 0.51 (95%CI  
0.415~0.623),  
가  
(Table 6).

가

가

C

anti-  
HCV , 20 , 60  
HCV C  
가 ,  
(Dubois et al., C  
1997; . Alter et al., 1992).  
anti-HCV  
0.11%, 0.23%  
1.8%(Alter, 1997), 1.15%(Dubois et  
al., 1987), 0.87%(Beutels et al.,  
1997), 1~2%(Botte & Janot,  
1996) anti-HCV C  
HCV C  
C , C  
가  
(Nishioka et al., 1991; Alter  
et al., 1990), (Alter et al., 1989; Hess  
et al., 1989), 가 (Ideo et al.,  
1990; Kamitsukasa et al., 1989),  
(Alter, 1995; Micheal et al., 1993; Kelen  
et al., 1992; Esteban et al., 1989)  
: C  
29,278 25  
1000 0.9 (95% CI: 0.6~1.3)  
20 , 30 , 40  
( , 1995; Kim et , 50 1000 0, 0.5, 1.3, 4.2  
al., 1995; , 1992; , 1995; , 가  
, 1993; , 1994; , 가 . 20  
1997; , 1997; , 1994). 60 C  
C 1000 1.3 .  
C  
가 C  
(p>0.05). 1000 1.9 (95% CI:  
0.5~7.0), 1000 1.7 (95% CI:  
0.7~3.9), 1000 1.2 (95% CI:  
0.2~6.6) , C  
(93.6%) , 가 (p>0.05).  
(62.6%) ,  
가 :  
anti-HCV



가  
 C  
 B A B  
 C  
 1991;11:207-14.  
 C ALT  
 anti-HCV  
 1994;5:17-23.  
 anti-HCV 가 HBV  
 1992;43(6):729-37.  
 C  
 1995;48(3):361-8.  
 EIA  
 C  
 1993;4:223-9.  
 C  
 1990;1:7-11.  
 가  
 1997;18(12):1508-18.  
 C  
 B HIV  
 1997;52(6):754-62.  
 1999.  
 C  
 가.  
 1995;28(2):526-41.  
 C  
 1993;25(3):519-30.  
 1990  
 C  
 1990;20:193-203.  
 EIA  
 C  
 1992;3:47-53.  
 1998:81-5.  
 C  
 가  
 1998;15(9.10):581-90.  
 EIA, RT-PCR C  
 1994;5:9-15.  
 C 가  
 1994;47(5):629-36.  
 C  
 1994;46(3):310-8.

C  
 B A B  
 C  
 1991;11:207-14.  
 C ALT  
 anti-HCV  
 1994;5:17-23.  
 anti-HCV 가 HBV  
 1992;43(6):729-37.  
 C  
 1993;45(3):322-7.  
 PCR 가 C 1994;19(4):  
 364-73.  
 C  
 75  
 1995;49(4):517-25.  
 C  
 1994;47:744-9.  
 Aach RD, Grisham JW, Parker CW. Detection of Australia antigen by radioimmunoassay. Proc Natl Acad Sci 1971;68:1056-60.  
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