

## Hepatitis G Virus

## The Prevalence of Hepatitis G Virus by Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction

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**Background :** Hepatitis G virus(HGV) is known to be associated with non-A-E hepatitis but pathogenic relevance and mode of transmission are still unclear. In this study, we analyzed the prevalence and clinical implications of HGV infection in patients on hemodialysis or being treated for hematologic disease, and healthy controls.

**Methods :** HGV RNA was identified in serum by reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction(RT-PCR) with nested primers deduced from highly conserved area of the 5'-untranslated region. Other parenterally transmissible hepatitis viral markers(HBsAg and anti-HCV) and alanine aminotransferase(ALT), history of transfusion, duration of hemodialysis were assessed.

**Results :** HGV RNA was detected in 12.5%(8 of 64) of the patients on hemodialysis and in 24.1%(14 of 58) of the patients treated for hematologic disease, as compared with 0.8%(1 of 120) of healthy controls( $P<0.05$ ). HBsAg, anti-HCV, ALT level, rate of transfusion history and duration of hemodialysis were not significantly different between HGV-infected patients and non-HGV-infected patients. In patients treated for hematologic disease, sex was significantly different between HGV positive and negative groups.

**Conclusions :** Patients on hemodialysis and being treated for hematologic disease have increased risk for HGV infection, but there was no clinical difference between HGV RNA positive and negative groups. HGV infection itself does not seem to be a frequent cause of liver disease in these patients. The clinical significance of long-term infection with HGV remains to be established (Korean J Clin Microbiol 1999;2:82~88)

**Key words :** Hepatitis G virus, Non-A-E hepatitis, Reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction

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Hepatitis G virus(HGV) *Flaviviridae*  
가 RNA virus Linnen [1] 가  
9400  
HCV

Table 1. Nucleotide sequences of primers for HGV RT-PCR

	Oligonucleotide sequences(5' 3')	Position
Outer sense	CAG GGT TGG TAG GTC GTA AAT CC	111-133
Outer antisense	CCT ATT GGT CAA GAG AGA CAT	331-351
Inner sense	GGT CAT CCT GGT AGC CAC TAT AGG	135-158
Inner antisense	AAG AGA GAC ATT GAA GGG CGA CGT	318-341

가 , 가 8

N .

. Simons [2]

GB virus-C(GBV-C) 3 2.

(nonstructural protein 3 region; NS3) 85%,

100%

가 [3]. -70 가 . HGV RNA

HGV RT-PCR , B (hepatitis B

surface antigen; HBsAg), C

(anti-hepatitis C virus; anti-HCV)(EIA, Abbott Diagnostic

Division, Illinois, USA) alanine aminotransferase(ALT)

[1] , HGV

[4],

[5,6]

RT-PCR 5'-UTR(untranslated region)

(GenBank/EMBL/DBJ

accession numbers: U36380, U44402, U45966, D90600,

D90601) Shimizu [8]

(Table 1).

(reverse

transcription-polymerase chain reaction; RT-PCR)

HGV RNA HGV

1) HGV RT-PCR

Guanidium thiocyanate-phenol-chloroform

TRI Reagent(Molecular Research Center Inc., Cincinnati,

USA) 250 μ L RNA

. RNA

[50mM Tris/HCl(pH 8.3), 75mM KCl, 3mM

MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 10mM DTT(Gibco BRL, Gaithersburg, USA), 1

mM deoxynucleotide triphosphates(dNTP; Promega,

Wisconsin, USA), outer antisense 40 pmole] 20 μ L

ribonuclease inhibitor(RNasin; Promega, Wisconsin,

USA) 40U, (Moloney murine leukemia virus

reverse transcriptase; Gibco BRL, Gaithersburg, ) 200U

가 42 60

DNA , 96 10 가

DNA heating block PTC-100(MJ

Research, Watertown, USA)

. 1 5 μ

L 1 [10mM Tris/HCl(pH 9.0), 50mM KCl,

0.1% Triton X-100, 1.7mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 200 μ M dNTP,

outer sense outer antisense 50 pmole] 45 μ

1997 12

120

가 53 (44 ± 10 ) ,

67 (45 ± 11 ) . 1997 12

1998 6

64

58

가 40 (50 ± 12 ) 24 (48 ± 15 )

. 30 (28 ± 20 ) , 28 (29

± 22 ) , 24 ,

12 , 8 ,

3 , 2 , 2

Table 2. Characteristics according to HGV infection in hemodialysis patients

HGV RNA	Positive (N=8)	Negative (N=56)
Sex (male/female)	4/4	46/20
Age (years)	39.9 ± 12.7	50.0 ± 12.9
Duration of hemodialysis (months)	49.4 ± 28.6	48.5 ± 42.8
Rate of transfusion history (%)	100	89
Transfusion (No. of units)	39.6 ± 43.1	16.5 ± 21.3
ALT (U/L)	15.5 ± 6.1	17.5 ± 12.3
HBsAg (positive/negative)	2/6	2/54
anti-HCV (positive/negative)	0/8	1/55

All variables were not statistically significant.

Table 3. Characteristics according to HGV infection in patients with hematologic diseases

HGV RNA	Positive (N=14)	Negative (N=44)
Sex (male/female)	11/3	19/25
Age (years)	31.4 ± 20.5	27.8 ± 21.3
Rate of transfusion history	100	81.8
Transfusion (No. of units)	56.8 ± 63.9	33.9 ± 46.4
ALT (U/L)	121 ± 262	48.1 ± 49.6
HBsAg (positive/negative)	0/14	4/40
anti-HCV (positive/negative)	0/14	1/43

All variables, except sex, were not statistically significant.

L Taq DNA polymerase 2U 가 , 94 3  
 (pre-denaturation) , 94 20  
 (denaturation), 55 20 (annealing),  
 72 20 (extension) 0.8% (1/120) HGV RNA  
 35 . 2 inner sense , 12.5% (8/64) ,  
 inner antisense 1 10 μL 24.1% (14/58)  
 30 1 (P<0.05).  
 10 μL 0.5 × Tris-borate- EDTA buffer  
 ethidium bromide 2% agarose gel 7.5% (9/120), 2.5% (3/120) ,  
 UV transiluminator(305nm) 1 6.2% (4/64), 1.6% (1/64) , 6.9%  
 241 bp, 2 208 bp HGV RNA  
 RNA 49.4 (11 89 ) ,  
 48.5 (2 171 )  
 가 . 64  
 6 HGV RNA 가  
 2) . HGV RNA 가  
 t-test , Mann- 39.6 ± 43.1 HGV RNA  
 Whitney test , HBsAg 16.5 ± 21.3 ,  
 anti-HCV Fisher's  
 exact test . HGV RNA 8  
 HCV ,

HBV , ALT 가 가 -A-E  
 . HGV RNA HBsAg anti- [1],  
 HCV , ALT . HGV  
 RNA [7], HGV [12],  
 HBV 2 6 [2,8] HGV  
 5-13%  
 , HGV RNA 6 ALT HGV RNA가 [13,14]. Feucht [15]  
 (Table 2). 가

HGV RNA HGV RNA  
 가 1.9% (5/257) -  
 24 5 HGV RNA가 , A-E 가  
 12 4 , 8 3 1.9% (3/154)  
 , 3 1 , (6/17), 28.8% (17/59), C  
 2 1 HGV RNA가 , 24.4% (29/119),  
 8 HGV RNA가 . 21.1% (12/57), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)  
 1 HGV RNA가 5 가 18.2% (10/55), 6.8% (4/59)  
 1 HGV RNA가 . 58 , HGV RNA  
 30 , 28 가  
 HGV RNA 14 11  
 , 44 가 19 HGV 0.6-10%  
 가 (P<0.05). HGV [16-18].  
 RNA HGV RNA 0.6%[16],  
 , ALT , HBsAg anti-HCV 7.8%[19]  
 , HGV RNA가 14 0.8%  
 , HGV  
 8 HGV RNA가 . HGV HGV  
 RNA가 ALT가 45 IU/L HGV  
 가 50% (7/14) , HGV RNA  
 27% (12/44) (Table 3). HGV  
 [20].  
 5'-UTR Andonov  
 [20] 가 100%  
 1989 HCV가 , 가 HGV  
 -A, -B 75-90% [9]. [21,22],  
 가 HCV anti-HCV HGV RNA 0.8%  
 -A, -B , -A-E 12.5%  
 [10], HGV  
 (community acquired) -A, -B HCV (55%) (57%)  
 가 (3%) (5-  
 [11]. Linnen [1] Simons [2] A E 7%) [15,21,23,24]. HGV  
 가 HCV RNA (76%)  
 , HGV HCV (3.8%)  
 RNA , HGV GBV-C HBV(1.6%)  
 , 가  
 , Flaviviridae [25,26].  
 HGV HGV (12.5%) HBV (6.2%)  
 HGV HCV (1.6%) , HGV

anti-HCV, HGV-RNA, HBsAg, ALT, HCV RNA, HGV RNA, 4%, HGV, 50%가, 200 IU/L, ALT가, [7,21], [5-7,18], HGV RNA, ALT, anti-HCV, HBsAg, HGV, 7.5%, anti-HCV, 2.5%, HBsAg, HGV가, . Sheng [27], HGV, HCV, [32], HGV, HBV, HCV, HGV RNA, 21.1%, 48%, [4,28,29], HGV가, 24.1%, HGV, 가, HGV, 가, [29], RNA가 1, 8, HGV, 33%, : Hepatitis G virus (HGV) -A-E, (9/27), HGV RNA가, 61% (20/33), 58, RNA, 30, 28, HGV, 11, 19, HGV, : 64, 가, 가, HCV, 58, RNA, HBsAg, anti-HCV, HGV, 120, 5'-UTR, ALT, HGV RNA, HGV RNA, HGV, : 0.8% (1/120), HGV RNA, 가, Madejon, 0.05), 24.1% (14/58), HGV RNA, anti-HCV, HCV, HGV, RNA, HGV RNA, HCV, 가, HGV, HGV, HCV, HCV, 10%가 HGV, 12.5%, 24.1%, HGV, HGV



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