

**B**

**B**

2002 6



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,

.

,

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가 ,

.

	.....	1
I.	.....	5
II.	.....	9
1.	.....	9
2.	.....	10
III.	.....	17
1.	.....	17
2. B	.....	19
가.	.....	19
· HBsAg	HBsAg	
	.....	19
·	.....	21
· HBsAg		
	.....	25
· HBsAg	PCR	
	HBV DNA	.....
		27
IV.	.....	29

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# B

B (Hepatitis B virus, HBV)  
가 HBV  
,  
, B  
(Hepatitis B surface antigen ;  
HBsAg) HBV  
HBsAg  
HBsAg  
HBV  
HBV DNA가  
HBsAg  
B HBsAg  
HBsAg

HBsAg

(polymerase chain reaction ; PCR)

HBV DNA

2001 10 2002 3

B

HBeAg

1

가

HBsAg

. PCR

primer S gene

5'-GTCCTCTAATTCCAGGATC-3'(sense, 473-492),

5'-GATGCTGTACAGACTTGG-3'(anti-sense, 761-778)

430 ( ; 268 , ; 162 )

48.5 ± 10.2 (22 ~ 74 ) . 49

(11.4%) HBsAg , 29 (59.2%)

anti-HBs가 . HBsAg 1

HBsAg

. , HBsAg

HBsAg

가 2 . HBsAg , ,

가 , , ,

가

. HBsAg 2.1 (1-5 ) 15

,

,

,

. HBsAg

13 15

PCR HBV DNA

PCR HBV DNA

template PCR cycle 가 HBV DNA

. , PCR

HBV DNA .

PCR 15 HBV DNA .

HBV HBsAg

,

HBV DNA가 ,

HBsAg

.

---

: HBV

,

,

# B

< >

## I.

B (Hepatitis B virus, HBV)

,

가 . B

(Hepatitis B surface antigen ; HBsAg)

가 5

6 % .<sup>1</sup> B B

.2

HBV

,

HBsAg

,

B

,

.

가

,

가

.3

, HBV

,

,

,

,

.4

Hepatitis B e antigen(HBeAg)

B

가

,

HBV DNA

가

. HBV

HBeAg

, anti-HBe가

HBV DNA가

5,6

.

HBsAg

,

HBV

HBsAg 0.1~0.8%<sup>7-9</sup> 0.4~2.0%

<sup>10,11</sup> HBV

HBsAg HBV

<sup>12</sup> HBV

HBeAg anti-HBe HBV DNA가

HBsAg 가 B 가

(polymerase chain reaction ; PCR) HBsAg

HBV DNA가

가 <sup>13-17</sup> HBsAg HBV DNA가

가 HBsAg

HBV 가

<sup>12</sup> , HBsAg

가 HBsAg

HBV



## II.

1.

가.

2001 10 2002 3

, HBsAg  
HBeAg 1 가  
1.5 .  
가  
.  
.  
HBsAg 가  
, 가  
, B 6 HBsAg  
가  
,

가 Child-  
Pugh  
가 (alpha-  
fetoprotein:aFP) 400 ng/ml

3 가  
3

2.

가

HBsAg

가.

B HBsAg, anti-HBs,  
anti-HBc, HBeAg, anti-HBe (Behringwerke,  
Marburg, Germany)

sequential multiple autoanalyzer (Hitachi, Tokyo, Japan)

aspartate aminotransferase(AST)

13-34 IU/L, alanine aminotransferase(ALT)

5-46 IU/L HBV DNA

molecular hybridization DML 2000TM  
Luminometer(Digene Diagnostics Inc., Silver Spring, Maryland,

U.S.A) 0.5 pg/ml

HBsAg 10 , HBsAg

15

10%

hematoxyline-eosin

Masson's trichrome

(Table 1,2)

(lobular activity) /

(porto-periportal activity)

**Table 1.** Grading of Chronic Hepatitis proposed by the Korean Study Group for Pathology of Digestive Disease

Lobular activity	Porto-peiportal activity	Score	Descriptive disease
No necrosis	< mild portal inflammation	0	None
Sinusoidal lymphocytosis with or without 1 or less necrosis per 10× objective field	> mild portal inflammation with or without focal PMN in few portal tracts	1	Minimal
2-5 necrosis per 10× objective field	PMN, focal in some or most portal tracts or PMN, around < 50% of a few portal tracts	2	Mild
6-20 necrosis per 10× objective field	PMN around < 50% of most portal tracts	3	Moderate
More than 20 necrosis per 10× objective field or confluent necrosis (Zone 3)	PMN around > 50% of most portal tracts or septal surfaces	4	Severe

PMN : piecemeal necrosis

**Table 2.** Staging of Chronic Hepatitis proposed by the Korean Study Group for Pathology of Digestive Disease

Definition	Score	Descriptive disease
Normal connective tissue	0	No fibrosis
Fibrous portal expansion	1	Portal fibrosis
Periportal fibrosis with short septa extending into lobules or rare porto-portal septa (intact architecture)	2	Periportal fibrosis
Fibrous septa reaching adjacent portal tracts and THV (architectural distortion but but no obvious cirrhosis)	3	Septal fibrosis
Diffuse nodular formation	4	Cirrhosis

HBsAg      HBcAg

4-5  $\mu$ m

1      60      가      xylene

100%, 90%, 70%

3%      10      가      peroxidase

HBsAg      HBcAg

DAKO LSAB Plus KIT(DAKO Corp., 6392 Via Real, Carpinteria, U.S.A)

HBsAg      1      (mouse anti-HBsAg)      HBcAg

1      (rabbit anti-HBcAg)      1      2

2      (biotinylated link antibody)

30      peroxidase-conjugated

streptavidin , AEC(aminoethylcarbazole)

hematoxylin

HBV DNA

HBsAg

가 13

HBV DNA

MIPSafe™ Blood Mini Sample Kit(Genotein( ), , Korea)

HBV DNA

xylene

100%

HBV

DNA

HBV DNA

MIPSafe™ Tissue Mini Kit(Genotein( ), , Korea)

. Primer

Primer S gene 5'-GTCCTCTAATTCCAGGA  
TC-3'(sense, 473-492), 5'-GATGCTGTACAGACTTGG-  
3'(anti-sense, 761-778) , primer COSMO  
GENETECH ( , Korea) .

. HBV DNA

PCR HBV DNA .

HBV DNA 1  $\mu\ell$  sense primer 0.5  $\mu\ell$ , antisense primer  
0.5  $\mu\ell$ , dNTP 2  $\mu\ell$ , 10X buffer 5  $\mu\ell$ , Taq DNA polymerase(Ex  
Taq) 0.2  $\mu\ell$  thermal cycler 95 1 ,  
55 1 , 72 1 35 .

DNA 2% agarose gel 320bp DNA  
gel . DNA 가

HBV DNA 3  $\mu\ell$  , PCR cycle 40  
가 2 PCR . HBV DNA  
가 PCR .

± ,

SPSS for Windows 10.0 .

Unpaired sample *t*-test Chi-square analysis

*p*-value가 0.05

가 .

### III.

1. (Table 3)

430 48.9 ±

10.2 (22 ~ 74 ) . 40 350 (81.0%) .

268 (62.3%) , 162 (37.7%) .

HBsAg 86 (20.0%), B

181 (42.1%), 163 (37.9%) ,

가 30 (7.0%) . AST 28.8 ± 9.7

IU/L(12 ~ 51 IU/L) , ALT 30.9 ± 14.7 IU/L(8 ~ 69 IU/L)

, 83.2 ± 59.4 (3-251

) .

**Table 3.** Clinical Characteristics of 430 chronic HBsAg carriers on enrollment

Characteristics	Patients (n=430)	
	No.	%
Age in years <sup>1</sup> (range)	48.9 ± 10.2 (22 - 74)	
Sex		
Male	268	62.3
Female	162	37.7
Family history		
Positive	193	44.9
Negative	237	55.1
Clinical status		
Asymptomatic HBsAg carrier	86	20.0
Chronic hepatitis	181	42.1
Liver cirrhosis Child-Pugh A	136	31.6
Liver cirrhosis Child-Pugh B	27	6.3
Hepatocellular carcinoma	30	7.0
Anti-HBs		
Positive	54	12.6
Negative	376	87.4
AST <sup>1</sup> (range)	28.8 ± 9.7 IU/L (12-51)	
ALT <sup>1</sup> (range)	30.9 ± 14.7 IU/L (8-69)	
Follow - up period in months <sup>1</sup>	83.2 ± 59.4 (3-251)	

<sup>1</sup> Data values are expressed as means ± SD

anti-HBs, Hepatitis B surface antibody;

AST, aspartate aminotransferase ; ALT, alanine aminotransferase

2. B

가.

430 49 (11.4%)  
 HBsAg , 29 (59.2%) anti-HBs가  
 . Anti-HBc 49 (100%) .

. HBsAg HBsAg

(Table 4)

HBsAg 49 36 , 13  
 50.0 ± 10.0 . HBsAg 86  
 10 (11.6%), B 181 18 (9.9%),  
 163 21 (12.9%) HBsAg

. HBsAg 49

5 , 4 HBsAg

, 1 HBsAg

(case 10).

HBsAg HBsAg

, , 가 , , ,  
 .

**Table 4.** Patients data with or without detectable serum HBsAg

Characteristics	HBsAg (+) (n=381)	HBsAg (-) (n=49)	<i>P</i>
M / F	232 / 149	36 / 13	0.087
Age in years <sup>†</sup> (range)	48.3 ± 10.3 (22 - 74)	50.0 ± 10.0 (27 - 72)	0.286
< 40	74 (19.4%)	6 (12.2%)	0.224
≥ 40	307 (80.6%)	43 (87.8%)	
Family history			
Positive	173 (45%)	20 (40.8%)	0.543
Negative	208 (55%)	29 (59.2%)	
Clinical status			0.679
Asymptomatic HBsAg carrier	76 (19.9%)	10 (20.4%)	
Chronic hepatitis	163 (42.8%)	18 (36.7%)	
Liver cirrhosis Child-Pugh A	118 (31.0%)	18 (36.7%)	
Liver cirrhosis Child-Pugh B	24 (6.3%)	3 (6.2%)	
Hepatocellular carcinoma	25 (6.6%)	5 (10.2%)	0.346
Biochemical hepatitis activity			0.359
Active	168 (44.1%)	25 (51.0%)	
Inactive	213 (55.9%)	24 (49.0%)	
AST <sup>†</sup> (IU/L)	29.1 ± 9.7	26.2 ± 9.3	0.07
ALT <sup>†</sup> (IU/L)	31.4 ± 14.8	26.8 ± 13.0	0.06

<sup>†</sup> Data values are expressed as means ± SD

anti-HBs, Hepatitis B surface antibody;

AST, aspartate aminotransferase; ALT, alanine aminotransferase

(Table 5)

430 10 HBsAg

, HBsAg

49 15 HBsAg

5 HBsAg ,

HBsAg 10 2

, HBsAg

HBsAg

가 2 .

HBsAg HBsAg

2.1 (1~5 ) 2

HBsAg , 13 B .

HBsAg 3

3

stage 0 3 .

/ 3 1 ,

grade 3 (case 8).

15

HBsAg HBcAg .

**Table 5.** Comparison of Liver histology and Laboratory data between liver biopsies before HBsAg loss and after HBsAg loss

Case No.	Liver histology						AST/ALT level (at biopsy, IU/L)		HBeAg/anti-HBe status (at the time of liver biopsy before HBsAg loss)	Time of biopsy after HBsAg loss (mon)	Clinical diagnosis (after HBsAg loss)	After HBsAg loss (at biopsy)			
	Before HBsAg loss			After HBsAg loss			Before HBsAg loss	After HBsAg loss				Immunohistochemical staining		HBV DNA quantitation (pg/ml)	Anti-HBs status
	a	b	c	a	b	c						HBsAg	HBcAg		
1	2	1	2	1	0	2	78/49	20/15	(-) / (+)	1	Chronic hepatitis	(-)	(-)	< 0.5	(+)
2	3	4	2	1	0	2	94/248	20/15	(+) / (-)	1	Chronic hepatitis	(-)	(-)	Not tested	(+)
3	1	1	1	0	0	0	20/22	19/13	(-) / (+)	2	Asymptomatic carrier	(-)	(-)	< 0.5	(+)
4	3	4	2	1	0	2	78/191	19/28	(+) / (-)	5	Chronic hepatitis	(-)	(-)	< 0.5	(+)
5	3	3	2	1	0	2	43/70	14/9	(-) / (+)	2	Chronic hepatitis	(-)	(-)	< 0.5	(-)
6	No biopsy			1	0	3	.	27/33	.	1	Chronic hepatitis	(-)	(-)	Not tested	(+)
7	No biopsy			1	2	3	.	20/21	.	2	Chronic hepatitis	(-)	(-)	< 0.5	(+)
8	No biopsy			3	2	2	.	50/69	.	1	Chronic hepatitis	(-)	(-)	Not tested	(+)
9	No biopsy			1	0	2	.	53/27	.	5	Chronic hepatitis	(-)	(-)	< 0.5	(-)

10	No biopsy			1	0	2	.	23/15	.	2	Chronic hepatitis	(-)	(-)	Not tested	(+)
11	No biopsy			1	0	1	.	17/19	.	1	Chronic hepatitis	(-)	(-)	Not tested	(-)
12	No biopsy			2	0	2	.	23/17	.	1	Chronic hepatitis	(-)	(-)	< 0.5	(-)
13	No biopsy			0	0	0	.	20/28	.	2	Chronic hepatitis	(-)	(-)	< 0.5	(-)
14	No biopsy			1	0	2	.	17/12	.	3	Chronic hepatitis	(-)	(-)	< 0.5	(+)
15	No biopsy			0	1	0	.	35/51	.	1	Asymptomatic carrier	(-)	(-)	< 0.5	(-)
16	2	3	3	No biopsy			22/27	.	(-) / (+)	.	Liver cirrhosis A <sup>1</sup>	.	.	.	(+)
17	3	1	1	No biopsy			20/22	.	(-) / (+)	.	Chronic hepatitis	.	.	.	(-)
18	2	3	4	No biopsy			76/79	.	(+) / (-)	.	Liver cirrhosis A <sup>1</sup>	.	.	.	(+)
19	2	1	2	No biopsy			150/96	.	(+) / (-)	.	Liver cirrhosis A <sup>1</sup>	.	.	.	(+)
20	2	3	4	No biopsy			45/76	.	(+) / (-)	.	Liver cirrhosis A <sup>1</sup>	.	.	.	(-)

a. Lobular activity, b. Porto-periportal activity, c. Fibrosis

<sup>1</sup> Child -Pugh Classification A

. HBsAg

(Figure 1,2)

HBsAg

HBsAg

5 HBsAg

. HBsAg

HBsAg

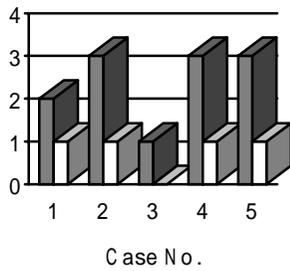
, /

1

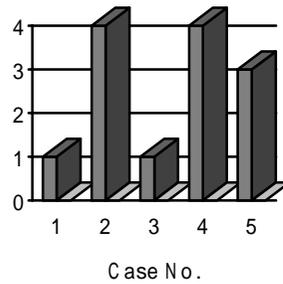
stage 1 HBsAg

, 4

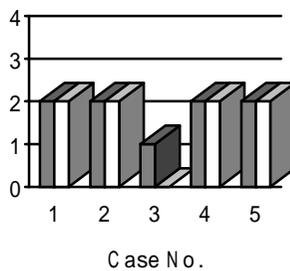
**Lobular activity**



**Porto-perportal activity**



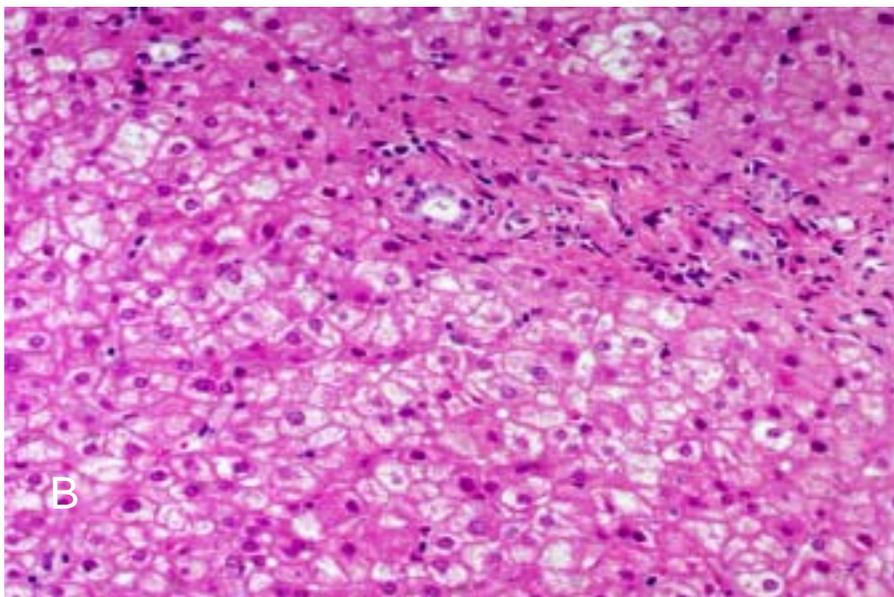
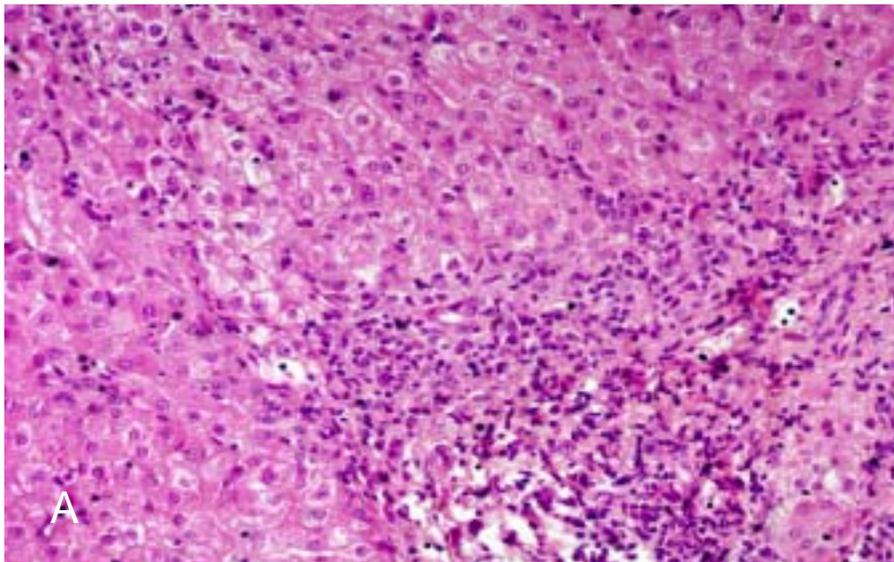
**Fibrosis**



**Figure 1.** Comparison of liver histology between liver biopsies before HBsAg loss and after HBsAg loss

: Before HBsAg loss

: After HBsAg loss

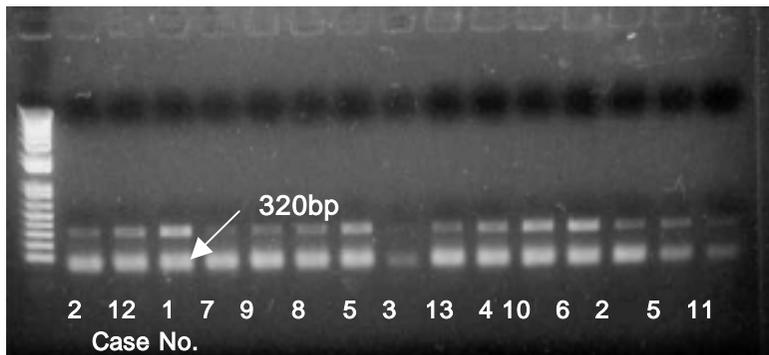


**Figure 2.** Comparison of liver histology between liver biopsies before HBsAg loss and after HBsAg loss of Case 2. (A) Before HBsAg loss. Chronic hepatitis with minimal lobular activity(3/4), no portoperiportal activity(4/4) and periportal fibrosis(2/4). (B) After HBsAg loss. Chronic hepatitis with minimal lobular activity(1/4), no portoperiportal activity(0/4) and periportal fibrosis(2/4).

. HBsAg PCR  
 HBV DNA (Figure 3,4)  
 HBsAg 15  
 가 13 ,  
 PCR HBV DNA .  
 HBV DNA 1  $\mu\ell$  template PCR cycle 35  
 1 PCR HBV DNA  
 . HBV DNA 3  $\mu\ell$ , PCR cycle 40  
 가 2 PCR 13 HBV DNA  
 .  
 HBsAg  
 PCR 15 HBV DNA 1 PCR



**Figure 3.** Detection of HBV DNA in the serum of patients with HBsAg loss (template HBV DNA 3  $\mu\ell$ , PCR cycle 40)



**Figure 4.** Detection of HBV DNA in the liver tissue of patients with HBsAg loss

#### IV.

B HBsAg  
 7,8,9,16,17 B

HBsAg  
 0.4 ~ 2.0% ,<sup>10,11</sup> B

0.1 ~ 0.8%  
 7,8,9

HBeAg 1 가

1.5 HBV가

HBsAg HBsAg

430 49 (11.4%)

HBsAg , 29 (59.2%)

anti-HBs가 7,8,9,10,11,18

, B

, HBsAg

HBV ,

HBeAg

HBsAg

HBsAg

HBeAg/

HBV DNA가

가

HBsAg/anti - HBs

B

7,19 ,

HBsAg ,

7

,

20

HBsAg

가

HBsAg

49

15 (2 ;

HBsAg ,

13 ;

B

)

HBsAg

2.1 (1~5 )

HBsAg

,  
 / 3  
 . / 3 1  
 B  
 . stage  
 0 3 . 9,11,13,21  
 . , HBsAg  
 . , HBsAg  
 HBsAg  
 5 HBsAg ,  
 HBsAg HBsAg  
 , /  
 . 1 HBsAg  
 stage 1 , HBsAg  
 , 4  
 .

가 , /

,

22-24 , HBsAg

, /

, HBsAg

.

HBsAg

가 B

, HBsAg

가

PCR

DNA

PCR

$10^{-5}$  pg HBV

가 .<sup>25</sup>

HBV DNA

HBsAg HBsAg

13 PCR HBV DNA

template HBV DNA 1  $\mu\ell$  , PCR cycle 35

13 HBV DNA가

, template 3  $\mu\ell$  PCR cycle 40 가

2 PCR 13 HBV DNA가

. PCR HBsAg

15 HBV DNA 1 PCR

. , HBsAg

HBV DNA가

. 13-17

PCR HBsAg B

30~35%( :5~70%) HBV DNA

, 40~50%( :13~100%)

HBV DNA가 . , B

PCR

, , HBV DNA

<sup>21,26</sup> , HBsAg  
 anti-HBs가 B 가  
 HBV DNA  
 HBV DNA <sup>15,16</sup>  
 HBsAg HBV DNA가  
 가 가  
 HBsAg  
 . Chung<sup>27</sup> HBsAg  
 가 ,  
 HBsAg 가  
 HBsAg  
 (3% vs. 11% in  
 6 years).<sup>28</sup> , Huo<sup>17</sup> HBsAg B  
 55 23 18  
 (32.7%) ,

, 45

가

72

HBsAg

가 1

(case 10)

, HBsAg

HBsAg

가 2

HBsAg

. HBsAg

DNA HBV DNA가

, X

.<sup>12,29</sup>

, HBsAg

HBsAg

.<sup>12</sup>

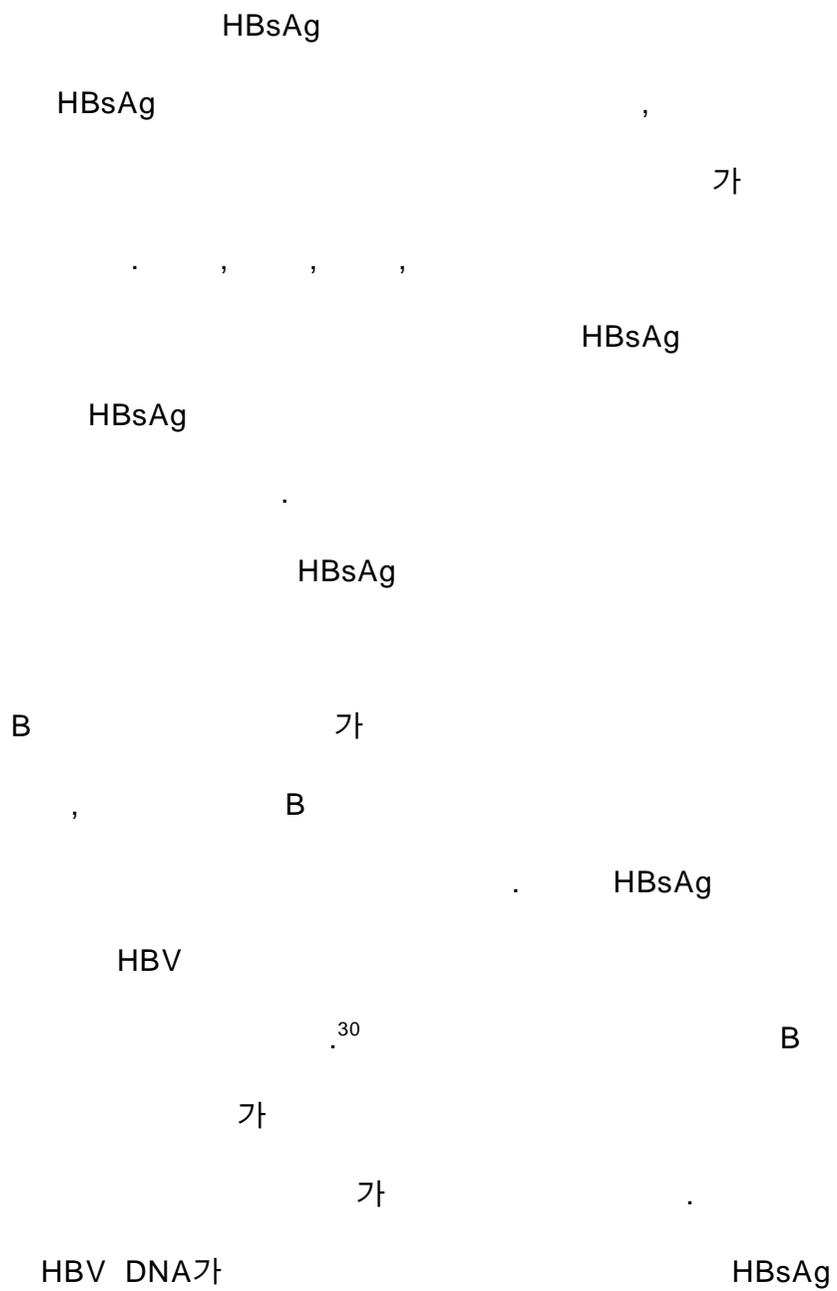
HBsAg

/

가

HBsAg

,



HBsAg 가  
 가 , HBsAg  
 S 'a' determinant 가  
 가 , HBsAg  
 anti-HBs HBsAg  
 가 .<sup>12,15,31</sup>  
 가 가  
 , 가 HBV  
<sup>32</sup>  
 HBV  
<sup>33</sup>  
 CD8+ (cytotoxic T-cell) CD4+ (helper T-cell)가  
 . HBV  
 CD8+  
 . HBcAg  
<sup>34</sup> HBV

anti-HBs가 HBV . B

anti-HBs가  
가

HBV  
anti-HBs B  
35,36 HBsAg  
B  
HBsAg  
,

HBV HBsAg  
HBsAg

PCR HBV  
DNA가 ,  
가 .

## V.

B

, HBeAg 1

가

HBsAg HBsAg ,

HBsAg PCR

HBV DNA

(1) 430 ( ;268 , ;162 )

$48.5 \pm 10.2$  (22 -74 ) .

(2) 49 (11.4%) HBsAg

, 29 (59.2%) anti-HBs가 .

(3) HBsAg , , 가 ,

,

가 .

(4) HBsAg 2.1 (1~5 ) 15

,

(5) HBsAg

1

HBsAg

(6) HBsAg

HBsAg

가

2

(7) HBsAg

13

15

PCR

HBV DNA

PCR

HBV DNA

template

PCR cycle

가

HBV DNA

PCR

HBV DNA

PCR

15

HBV DNA

HBV

HBsAg

HBV DNA가

HBsAg



- hepatitis B e antigen to anti-HBe in chronic hepatitis B virus infection. *Gastroenterol* 1980;79:195-199
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hepatitis B after sustained loss of surface antigen.

Gastroenterol 1992;103:1649-1656

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18. . . . B

2001;S80

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20. Alward WLM, McMahon BJ, Hall DB, et al. The long-term serological course of asymptomatic hepatitis B virus carriers and the development of primary hepatocellular carcinoma. *J Infect Dis* 1985;151:604-609
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22. , , .  
1999;33:337-346
23. . : .  
1998;41:323-339
24. , , .  
B .  
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## Abstract

### Histologic Findings in Patients with Chronic Hepatitis B with HBsAg loss

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Hepatitis B virus(HBV) is the most common cause of chronic liver disease in Korea and can lead to a variety of outcome. Chronic hepatitis B can be divided into three phases, immune-tolerance phase, immune-elimination phase, and non-replicative phase based on the relative level of HBV replication and the host immune response. The loss of serum

Hepatitis B surface antigen(HBsAg) occurs in non-replicative phase. The loss of serum HBsAg in the natural history of patients with chronic HBV infection is considered an unusual event, especially in Northeast Asia, a hyperendemic area of HBV infection that usually occurs perinatally or during early childhood. Although loss of HBsAg was considered to the biological remission of HBV infection, recent studies of the presence of HBV DNA by polymerase chain reaction(PCR) in the serum and the liver of patients with chronic B-viral infection after loss of HBsAg have been reported. The significance of detectable HBV DNA after loss of HBsAg is unclear. The present study was undertaken in Korea which is one of the endemic areas for HBV infection. The aim of this study were as follows (1) to determine the incidence of HBsAg loss in chronic B-viral carriers in non-replicative phase, (2) to investigate liver histology after HBsAg loss, and (3) to analyze for the presence of HBV DNA in the serum and in the liver with PCR method after HBsAg loss.

From October 2001 to March 2002, a total 430 chronic HBsAg carriers(268 male and 172 female; mean age  $48.5 \pm 10.2$  years), who were known to be seronegative HBeAg for at least 1 year and had near normal liver function tests, were prospectively observed in Yonsei University Severance Hospital. PCR was used to evaluate both serum and liver of chronic HBsAg carriers after spontaneous loss of HBsAg. Surface gene primers (5'-GTCCTCTAATTCCAGGATC-3' and 5'-GATGCTGTACAGACTTGG-3') amplified a 320-base pair segment.

Forty-nine patients(11.4%) lost serum HBsAg and seroconversion to anti-HBs was observed in 29 of the 49 patients(59.2%). One patient developed hepatocellular carcinoma after HBsAg loss. Although liver histologic findings at the time of HBsAg-positive were chronic hepatitis, 2 patients progressed into liver cirrhosis clinically at the time of HBsAg loss. The loss of HBsAg was not associated with age, sex, family history, clinical status, history of

hepatocellular carcinoma, and biochemical hepatitis activity. Liver biopsies were obtained a mean of 2.1 months after loss of HBsAg in 15 patients. As for liver histologic findings after HBsAg loss, lobular activity remained minimal, porto-periportal activity was little, and fibrosis was found in various stage. Immunohistochemical staining for HBsAg and HBcAg was negative in all 15. Serum collections were available for study in 13 of the 15 patients who were done liver biopsies. At the time of biopsy, HBV DNA was detectable in serum by PCR (template HBV DNA 3  $\mu$ l, PCR cycle 40) in 13 patients all. Liver HBV DNA was demonstrated by PCR in all 15 patients.

In conclusion, the loss of HBsAg does not necessarily indicate termination of chronic HBV infection and HBV DNA may be detectable by PCR in serum and liver tissue after loss of HBsAg. Although histologic findings improved in the face of HBsAg loss, minimal residual hepatitis activity can persist.

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Key Words: chronic B-viral infection, HBsAg loss, liver histology