

Clinical Characteristics of Hepatocellular Carcinoma in Young People

Kwang-Hyub Han, M.D., Hee Yong Moon, M.D.,* Won Choi, M.D.,*
Yong Han Paik, M.D., Kwan Sik Lee, M.D., Chae Yoon Chon, M.D.,
and Young Myoung Moon, M.D.

*Department of Internal Medicine, Institute of Gastroenterology, Yonsei University College of Medicine, Seoul;
Department of Internal Medicine,* Inha University College of Medicine, Incheon, Korea*

Background/Aims: Most of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) develops during 6th and 7th decade, and HCC development at the age under 40 is unusual. To understand the usefulness of HCC screening test and to determine guidelines for the treatment in young age patients group, we compared the clinical characteristics and prognosis of the patients with HCC retrospectively between patients under 40 and patients over 40. **Methods:** A retrospective analysis of the clinical data and survival rate was performed for 603 patients who were admitted to Yonsei medical center from April 1991 through April 1994. We divided the patients into two groups: young age group (< 40 years) and senior group (>40 years). **Results:** Among 603 patients examined, the number of patients in young age group was 67 (11.1%) and their male to female ratio was 10.2:1. Most patients (93%) had subjective symptoms at admission and sixty-four (95.5%) of 67 young HCC patients were HBsAg-positive. However, none of them was anti-HCV-positive. Elevated serum fetoprotein level (>400 ng/ml) was more common in the young age group (77.6%) than in the senior group (63.9%). According to the gross type, massive type was more common in the young age group (42.4% vs. 27.9%). The association of cirrhosis was less common in young age group than in the senior group (59.7% vs. 71.6%). The cumulative survival rate of 1, 2, and 3 year in the young age group was 35.4%, 29.2%, and 16.6%, respectively. Such rates were similar to those of the senior group. **Conclusions:** HCC development in young age group was closely related with hepatitis B viral infection and HCC screening test may be needed in young male patients with chronic hepatitis B. (**Kor J Gastroenterol 2000;35:196 - 202**)

Key Words: Hepatocellular carcinoma, Hepatitis B virus, Young age, Screening test

, ,
),
 , Child-Pugh A, B, C
 , HBsAg
 (Enzyme immunoassay: EIA,
 Behrinwerke AG, Marburg, Germany)
 B anti-HCV 2 EIA (Abbott, Chicago, IL.,
 10 30 , 7 USA) . FP
 .38
 50 60 B
 40

,
),
 Child-Pugh A, B, C
 HBsAg
 (Enzyme immunoassay: EIA,
 Behrinwerke AG, Marburg, Germany)
 anti-HCV 2 EIA (Abbott, Chicago, IL.,
 USA) . FP
 .38
 (massive type), (nodular),
 (diffuse infiltrative)

.
 40
 3.
 1.
 1991 4 1994 4 3

.
 (ANOVA)
 Ka-
 plan-Meier (product limit method)
 chi-square test
 log-rank test
 P 0.05
 가

(282), alpha-fetoprotein(FP)
 가 400 ng/ml
 가 (321) 603 (: 501 , :
 102) 40 (10-40,
 ; 10 , 25) 67

PC-SAS version 6.04
 program
 1.
 603 40 67 (11.1%) ,
 10.2:1 41 4.6:1
 가 (P<0.05).
 39 (58.2%),
 7 (10.4%), 5

2.
 , (, (40 g) 23 (34.3%) 41

7 (10.4%), 5
 (40 g) 23 (34.3%) 41

Table 1. Clinical Characteristics of Patients with Hepatocellular Carcinoma

	Age <40 years	Age >40 years
Number of patients	67	536
Mean age (years)	35.4 (10-40)	56.5 (41-86)
Male:Female*	10.2 : 1	4.6:1
Liver cirrhosis (%)	40 (59.7)	384 (71.6)
Child-Pugh A (%)	22 (32.8)	171 (31.9)
Child-Pugh B (%)	8 (12.0)	128 (23.8)
Child-Pugh C (%)	10 (14.9)	85 (15.9)
HBsAg positive (%)*	64 (95.5)	391 (72.9)
Anti-HCV positive (%)*	0	107 (26.4)
Size > 5 cm (%)	11 (16.4)	131 (24.4)
Portal vein thrombosis (%)	22 (32.8)	157 (29.3)
Metastasis (%)	11 (16.4)	95 (17.7)
αFP		
>400 ng/ml (%)*	52 (77.6)	341 (63.9)
<20 ng/ml (%)	6 (9.0)	88 (16.5)
Gross type		
Massive (%)*	28 (42.4)	147 (27.9)
Single nodular (%)	14 (21.2)	119 (22.6)
Multinodular (%)	13 (19.7)	133 (25.3)
Diffuse infiltrative (%)	11 (16.7)	127 (24.1)
Unclassified	1	11

* P<0.05.

Table 2. Chief Complaints of Young Patients (< 40 years) with Hepatocellular Carcinoma at Admission

Symptom	Frequency (%)
Abdominal pain	32 (47.8)
Fatigue	8 (11.9)
Abdominal distension	6 (9.0)
Weight loss	6 (9.0)
Hematemesis	5 (7.5)
Abdominal mass	3 (4.5)
Jaundice	3 (4.5)
Indigestion	3 (4.5)
Without symptom	6 (9.0)
Routine health examination	4 (6.0)
Follow-up of chronic liver disease	2 (3.0)

(4.5%), (4.5%), , 4 (6.0%), 2 (3.0%)
 (Table 2).
 HBsAg 64 (95.5%) , anti-HCV 41 (63.2%), anti-HCV 25.2%
 . ALT 63.0 IU/dL, AST 87.7 IU/dL , ALT , AST 가 12 (17.9%) . FP 가 400 ng/ml 52 (77.9%) 41 (63.9%) (P<0.05). FP 가 20 ng/ml 6 (9.0%)
 (Table 1).

(Table 1). 59.7% 41 (48%), (11.9%), 71.6% , Child-Pugh B, C (9.1%), (9.1%), (7.5%), 18 (26.9%)

41 39.7% .78 50
 (P>0.05). 60 40
 28 (42.4%), 14 (21.2%),
 13 (19.7%), 11 (16.7%) 1
 . 40 가
 41 가 .
 (P<0.05). 가 5 cm
 11 (16.4%) , 41 23.4% 가 가
 . 22 (32.8%), 가 .9,10
 11 (16.4%) 41 603
 (Table 1). 40 67 11.1% 10.2:1
 41 4.6:1 가
 2.
 가 48 1 , 2 , 3
 35.4%, 29.2%, 16.6% ,
 5.1 41 1 , 2 , 3
 37.7%, 21.4%, 16.7% 9.1% 7.5%
 8 . 41
 B 가 4 (6.0%) ,
 31.8%, 17.3%, 2 (3.0%)
 10.2% 5 .
 40 36 ,
 5 screening
 가 FP 40 가
 3.2 B 가
 7 .
 . FP 가 400 ng/ml B (HBV) C
 3.9 400 ng/ml 25.5 (HCV) 가
 (P<0.01).
 13 (19.4%) HBV HCV 가 .
 가 10 36 45 HBsAg
 8 (21- 63.2%, anti-HCV 25.2% , 40
 46.8). HBsAg 95.5%
 1 . anti-HCV 1 .
 HBV
 B
 10% 가 ,
 B

40 24 40

HBV
HCV HBV

HCV 가

11-17 5 cm 가

10-30 ,1821

HBV 가

HCV

가 40 가 48 1, 2, 3

1 35.4%, 29.2%, 16.6%, 5.1

HCV 가 41 1, 2, 3

가 223 HCV 가 37.7%, 21.4%, 16.7% 8

가

HBsAg anti-HCV 3 Wil-
son's disease, hemochromatosis, 1-antitrypsin defi-
ciency,

40

transaminase 가가 95% HBV

17.9% 41 HBV

HBsAg HBV

가 .

40

41 HBsAg 3

(p=0.06) 2 (26, 34), 1

가

가 28 HBsAg

가 , 40

36 5

가 가

40 40

가 .

40 35 23 10 (43%)가

42.4% 41 27.9% fibrolamellar type 가

10

가

13 1 fibrolamellar type 가

26
910
fibrolamellar type
가
50-60
40
40
: 1991 4 1994 4
3 603
603 40 (, : 10 , : 25) 67
(11.1%) , 10.2:1 41
4.6:1 가 (p<0.05).
(48%), (11.9%),
(9.1%), (9.1%), (7.5%),
(4.5%), (4.5%) ,
4 (6.0%),
2 (3.0%) . 67
HBsAg 64 (95.5%) , anti-
HCV 41 HBsAg(+) 63.2%,
anti-HCV(+) 25.2%
. ALT AST 1995
63.0 IU/dL, 87.7 IU/dL ALT AST 가
12 (17.9%) . FP 400
ng/ml 52 (77.6%) 41 63.9%
(p<0.05).
28 (42.4%), 14 (21.2%), 13
(19.7%), 11 (16.7%) 41 (27.9%)
(p<0.05).
40 (59.7%) 41 71.6%

, Child-Pugh B, C 18 (26.9%)
41 39.7%
(p=0.06). 22
(32.8%), 11 (16.4%) 41
가
40
48 1 , 2 , 3
35.4%, 29.2%, 16.6% 4.1 , 41
37.7%, 21.4%, 16.7% 8 41
40 36
5 가
3.2 7
가 400 ng/ml 3.9
400 ng/ml 25.5
(p<0.01). 1
: 40
10% B
가 40
B

: , B , , , ,

1. 1985;17:215-216.
2. Cotran RS, Kumar V, Robbins SL. Pathologic basis of disease. 5th ed. Philadelphia: WB Saunders, 1994
3. Nerenstone SR, Ihde DC, Friedman MA. Clinical trials in primary hepatocellular carcinoma: current status and future directions. *Cancer Treat Rev* 1988 15:1-31.
4. Pichlmayr R, Ringe B, Bechstein WO, Lauchart W, Neuhaus P. Approach to primary liver cancer. *Recent Results Cancer Res* 1988;110:65-73.
5. Lotze MT, Flickinger JC, Carr BI. Hepatobiliary neoplasms. In: DeVita VT, ed. *Cancer: principles and practice of oncology*. Volume 1. 4th ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1993:883-914.
6. Colombo M. Hepatocellular carcinoma. *J Hepatol* 1992;15:225-236.
7. Ahn YO, Park BJ, Yoo KY, Lee HS, Kim CY, Shigematsu T. Incidence estimation of primary liver cancer among Koreans. *J Korean Cancer Assoc* 1989;21:241-248.
8. 1995.
9. Lack EE, Neave C, Vawter GF. Hepatocellular carcinoma. Review of 32 cases in childhood and adolescence. *Cancer* 1983;52:1510-1515.
10. Farhi DC, Shikes RH, Murari PJ, Silverberg SG. Hepatocellular carcinoma in young people. *Cancer* 1983;52:1516-1525.
11. Feitelsohn M. Hepatitis B virus infection and primary hepatocellular carcinoma. *Clin Microbiol Rev* 1992;5:275-301.
12. Sherlock S. Viruses and hepatocellular carcinoma. *Gut* 1994;35:828-832.
13. Matsubara K, Tokino T. Integration of hepatitis B virus DNA and its implication for hepatocarcinogenesis. *Mol Biol Med* 1990;7:243-260.
14. Kew MC. Cancer of the liver. *Curr Opin Gastroenterol* 1995;11:202-206.
15. Diamantis ID, McGandy CE, Chen TJ, Liaw YF, Gudat F, Bianchi L. Hepatitis B X gene expression in hepatocellular carcinoma. *J Hepatol* 1992;15:400-403.
16. Okuda K. Hepatocellular carcinoma: recent progress. *Hepatology* 1992;15:948-963.
17. Di Bisceglie AM, Simpson LH, Lotze MT, Hoofnagle JH. Development of hepatocellular carcinoma among patients with chronic liver disease due to hepatitis C virus infection. *J Clin Gastroenterol* 1994;19:222-226.
18. Haruna Y, Hayashi N, Kamada T, Hytioglou P, Thung SN, Gerber MA. Expression of hepatitis C virus in hepatocellular carcinoma. *Cancer* 1994;73:2253-2258.
19. Kiyosawa K, Sodeyama T, Tanaka E, et al. Interrelationship of blood transfusion, non-A, non-B hepatitis and hepatocellular carcinoma: analysis by detection of antibody to hepatitis C virus. *Hepatology* 1990;12:671-675.
20. Kew MC. Hepatitis C virus and hepatocellular carcinoma. *FEMS Microbiol Rev* 1994;14: 211-220
21. Tarao K, Ohkawa S, Shimizu A, et al. Significance of hepatocellular proliferation in the development of hepatocellular carcinoma from antibody to hepatitis C virus-positive cirrhotic patients. *Cancer* 1994;73:1149-1154.
22. Herr W, Gerken G, Poalla T, et al. Hepatitis C virus-associated primary hepatocellular carcinoma in a noncirrhotic liver. *Clin Investig* 1993;71:49-53.
23. El-Refaie A, Savage K, Bhattacharya S, et al. HCV associated hepatocellular carcinoma without cirrhosis. *J Hepatol* 1996;24:277-285.
24. 1994 46:467-476.