Author’s response to reviews

Title: The seroprevalence of anti-hepatitis E virus (HEV) in a Korean population: comparison of two commercial anti-HEV assays

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Title: The seroprevalence of anti-hepatitis E virus (HEV) in a Korean population: comparison of two commercial anti-HEV assays

Authors: Hyun Kyung Park, Byung-Hyun Woo, Sook-Hyang Jeong, Jin-Wook Kim, Dong Ho Lee, Hyun Young Kim, and So Yon Ann

Dear editors of **BMC Infectious Diseases**

Please find our manuscript entitled “The seroprevalence of anti-hepatitis E virus (HEV) in a Korean population: comparison of two commercial anti-HEV assays” submitted by Hyun Kyung Park, Byung-Hyun Woo, Sook-Hyang Jeong, Jin-Wook Kim, Dong Ho Lee, Hyun Young Kim, and So Yon Ann for publication in the **BMC Infectious Diseases**.

This study aimed to investigate the seroprevalence of anti-HEV in a Korean population and to compare the performance of 2 commercially available anti-HEV assays. Among a total 484 health-check examinees who had visited Health Promotion Center, 147 people were randomly sampled as matched to the age- and sex- adjusted standard population based on the Korean National Census of 2007. Serum immunoglobulin G (IgG) anti-HEV was determined by using two kinds of assays, Genelabs (GL, Singapore) and Wantai kit (Wantai, Beijing, China). The anti-HEV seroprevalence in the age- and sex-adjusted population was 23.1% by Wantai assay and 14.3% by Genelabs assay. The anti-HEV seroprevalence increased with age from 2% and 3% in the people younger than 20 years old to 34.6% and 42.3% in the people older than 59 years old by Genelabs and Wantai assay, respectively. However, the agreement between the Wantai and the Genelabs assay was poor (κ value of 0.315). This study showed that the HEV seroprevalence in Korean adult population is about 20% overall, while the seroprevalence increases with increasing age in this population. There was poor concordance in the results of GL and Wantai assays, which warrants further study on the reliable diagnostic tests for the diagnosis of hepatitis E.

We believe that this report will be of significant interest to the readership of **BMC Infectious Diseases**. We agree that neither the submitted paper nor any similar paper, in whole or in part, other than an abstract or preliminary communication, has been or will be submitted to or published in any other scientific journal. All of
the authors are aware of and agree to the content of the paper and being listed as an author on the manuscript.

None of the authors have any financial or other interest with regard to the submitted manuscript that might be constructed as a conflict of interest. All authors carried out this research in accordance with the Helsinki Declaration.

Thank you in advance for reviewing this manuscript.

Very Respectfully

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