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

Authors:

Hyun Kyung Park (totoro1128@gmail.com)
Sook-Hyang Jeong (jsh@snubh.org)
Jin-Wook Kim (kimiw@snubh.org)
Byung-Hyun Woo (id791128@naver.com)
Dong Ho Lee (81301@snubh.org)
Hyun Young Kim (ns.gylian@gmail.com)
So Yon Ann (fancy38317@hanmail.net)

Version: 3 Date: 2 May 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
28th Apr, 2012

Dear editors of BMC Infectious Diseases

MS: 1017726961679798

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

We deeply thank the editors and reviewers of the ‘BMC infectious disease’ for taking time and efforts to review our paper. We hope the revised manuscript will better meet the requirements of the ‘BMC infectious disease’ for publication.

Here below is one-by-one response to your comments.

Reviewer 1

1. The paper should describe how the study sample of 147 sera was selected from the population of 484 health-check examinees seen during the study period from June 2006 to September 2006.

- According to your comment, we added the detailed description of sample selection in the “Materials and Methods” as below:

A total 484 health-check examinees who visited to Health Promotion Center of Seoul National University Bundang Hospital from June 2006 to September 2006 and agreed to participate in this study were enrolled. Among them, 147 sera were randomly selected by matching the subjects to the age- and sex- adjusted standard population of the Korean National Census of 2007. In detail, 484 subjects were allocated into the each category of age in decades and sex, then, a total 147 of them were randomly selected according to the proportions of standard population in each category. Page 4, Line 86-89.
2. The paper should include the confidence intervals for the estimated age-adjusted sero-prevalence rates that were obtained with each antibody test kit.

- We included the 95% confidence intervals for the HEV prevalence estimates that obtained with each immunoassay kit in both abstract and main text, page 5, line 122-123. We also included the 95% confidence intervals for the estimated anti-HEV positive rate according to age groups and gender in Table 2.

3. Table 2 could be improved by displaying the data in a standard 4 X 4 concordance table and avoiding the “Group I-IV designations, and also putting the concordance statistics as a footnote to the table.

- Thank you for your suggestion regarding table 2 (actually you mean the “Table 1”). In the revised paper, Table 1 contains only two variables (Wantai assay, Genelabs assay) and two results (negative, positive) to avoid the confusion related to “Group I-IV designations” with statistical footnote Figure 1 in the first manuscript was replaced with Table 2. Therefore, figure 2 in the first manuscript was named as figure 1.

**Reviewer 2**

1. Accept after clarification of the question raised above regarding Table 1.

- Table 1 has been revised as mentioned above.

2. The authors should go through the manuscript again carefully and rectify some minor grammatical errors.

- We carefully proof-read the manuscript to minimize typographical, grammatical, and bibliographical errors.

Finally, “Competing Interest section” was added after the Conclusions.
We are grateful again to the reviewers, which have allowed us to improve and clarify the manuscript.

Sincerely yours,

Sook-Hyang Jeong, M.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology
Seoul National University Bundang Hospital
Seongnam, Republic of Korea
Tel: 82-31-787-7034  Fax: 82-31-787-4052
E-mail: jsh@snubh.org