

Abstract

The purpose of this study was to examine the different age groups and geographical variation in prevalence rate of hepatitis A virus (HAV) infection.

1011 and 3548 serum samples collected from two different data bases were used to represent under 15 and 15-49 age groups, respectively. Serum antibody to HAV (anti-HAV) was determined by enzymeimmunoassay.

The prevalence of anti-HAV was 13.35% for the age group under 15. The prevalence rate of anti-HAV was highest in infants (0-6 month). It was not shown large variation in anti-HAV prevalence in different in geographical locations and at different urbanization levels except in aboriginal townships (34.9%).

In addition, the prevalence of anti-HAV was 57.95% for the age group 15-49. The prevalence rate was highest in the eastern area-aboriginal townships (76%) and were 54.78%, 57.59%, and 60.96% in northern, central, and southern areas, respectively. The age-specific prevalence of anti-HAV was lowest among the 15-19 group and increasing with age. This fact reflects tremendous reduction of hepatitis A virus infection in the past 20 years in Taiwan. However, Taiwan locates in the international transportation hub, the young generations are encouraged to have vaccination against hepatitis A.

Keywords : hepatitis A virus ; seroepidemiology ; Taiwan