

Abstract

Taiwan is an area endemic for chronic liver disease and most of the liver diseases are caused by hepatitis viral infections. The results of this year's studies are summarized as the followings.

- 1. a. By using the PCR-RFLP typing method, we found HBV genotypes B and C are the predominant HBV strains in Taiwan and the distribution of genotypes is similar in different parts of Taiwan.**
- b. In addition to mother-to-infant transmission, paternal transmission also plays an important role in the intrafamilial transmission of HBV.**
- 2. HBV genotype C is associated with more severe liver disease including liver cirrhosis and HCC. In contrast, genotype B is frequently found in young non-cirrhotic HCC patients.**
- 3. a. The annual incidence of interspousal transmission of HCV is only 0.23%, suggesting a low efficiency of sexual transmission of HCV.**
- b. The efficiency of interspousal transmission of GBV-C/HGV is comparable to that of HCV.**
- 4. The factors associated with asymptomatic HCV carriers are being analyzed.**
- 5. Long-term follow-up of HCV patients with known genotypes and viral titers is ongoing.**

Key Word : Hepatitis B, hepatitis Chepatitis G 、molecular epidemiology 、pathogenesis 、natural history 、treatment