

Thesis title	Some Factors Influencing Hepatitis B Virus Infection of School-age Children in Din-Daeng Community, Bangkok.
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ABSTRACT

Hepatitis B virus infection and its long-term complication such as chronic hepatitis, cirrhosis, and hepatocellular carcinoma are important public health problems throughout the world including Thailand. The risk of hepatitis B virus infection was high in children. The situation of HBV infection and its risk factors should be studied. This study was designed to determine the HBV prevalence rate, HBV carrier rate, HBV protection rate, and some risk factors of HBV infection in school-age children for proper management to prevent and control of the disease. One hundred and sixty five school-age children with 6-14 years old of age at Din-Daeng community, Bangkok were conducted during August to December, 1990. The children and their parents were interviewed and blood specimens from the children were collected with the agreement of their parents. The enzyme immunoassay was used to detect HBV seromarkers which were HBsAg, anti-HBs, and anti-HBc. The results showed that the prevalence of HBV infection was 24.85% (41 of 165), the HBV carrier rate was 3.64 %

(6 of 165), the HBV protection rate was 15.15 % (25 of 165), and the prevalence of only anti-HBc was 6.06 % (10 of 165). From these findings, the children were divided into 2 groups; children with HBV positive and HBV negative to search risk factors for HBV infection. The odds ratio and 95 % confidence interval were calculated and Chi-square test was used to determine the association between some factors and HBV infection by using $\alpha = 0.05$. The variables affecting the HBV infection were children's age (OR = 2.84, P = 0.004), children's sex (OR = 2.64, P = 0.012), ear piercing in female (OR = 8.48, P = 0.020), shairing blade during haircutting (OR = 12.32, P = 0.001), contact wound from other persons (OR = 2.36, P = 0.031), using wares with other persons (OR = 2.40, P = 0.017), searching things in garbage (OR = 3.10, P = 0.003), parent's education (OR = 5.19, P = 0.017), family income per month (OR = 2.53, P = 0.015), parent's age (30-39 years; OR = 5.83, P = 0.013, 40-49 years; OR = 6.52, P = 0.014, > 49 years; OR = 7.06, P = 0.014), parent's knowledge about HBV infection and hepatitis B vaccination (no knowledge; OR = 4.60, P = 0.007, low level of knowledge; OR = 3.24, P = 0.023), and parent's attitude about HBV infection and hepatitis B vaccination (OR = 3.36, P = 0.047). The results indicated that horizontal transmission may be an important route of HBV infection in school-age children.