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제 목	한국 노인들의 질병력과 위험요인 연구 : 안산 노인 연구 Morbidity and Related Factors among Elderly People in South Korea: The Ansan Geriatric (AGE) Study

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Purpose: Information on morbidity and related health factors among elderly Koreans is limited. The aims of this study were to assess morbidity, comorbidity, and treatment-seeking behaviors and to determine the relationship of morbidity with sociodemographic variables in elderly people in South Korea.

Methods: A total of 2,767 subjects (1,215 men and 1,552 women) aged 60 to 84 years were randomly selected from September 2002 to August 2003 in Ansan, South Korea. Data on sociodemographic and health characteristics, clinical diagnosis, and treatment-seeking behaviors were collected using questionnaires. When available, the medical records and medications taken by the subjects were also cross-checked.

Results: Of the total subjects, 78.0% reported diagnosed disease, 11.0% had been cured, and 46.8% had been diagnosed with more than two diseases. The mean number of morbidities per person among elderly Koreans was 1.62±1.35 (mean±SD), and women had a greater number of diseases per person than did men. The most common morbidities were chronic diseases such as hypertension, arthritis, and diabetes mellitus. In women, osteoporosis and arthritis were the second and third most prevalent diseases, respectively. The most common diseases that had been cured in this population were gastritis/gastric ulcers, tuberculosis, and cataracts. Hypertension and diabetes mellitus were the most regularly treated. Morbidity was significantly associated with gender, employment, household income, alcohol intake, self-assessed health status, and worries about health.

Conclusions: These data will enhance our understanding of the patterns of health problems among elderly Koreans and will contribute to the application of appropriate intervention strategies.