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= Abstract =

A Study on Vitamin A Levels in Measles Patients

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Purpose : This study was done to compare the vitamin A levels between hospitalized patients of measles symptoms and of the other infectious diseases common in childhood (bronchiolitis, pneumonia, gastroenteritis and etc.).

Methods : We have set up a population of 133 hospitalized patients of measles symptoms in the pediatric department of Kangnam Sacred Heart Hospital between Nov. 2000~Apr. 2001 and compared them to a group of 30 hospitalized patients of other infectious diseases between Dec. 2001~Feb. 2002. The whole patients were divided into three groups by diagnosing measles-specific IgM antibody positive as measles group(n=104), negative as measles-suspected group(n=29) and other infectious disease group. And we compared the vitamin A levels, clinical symptoms, and general hematological and biochemical results.

Results : Among the 104 measles patients, the concentrated age groups were 10~2 months(n=24, 23.1%), 13~15 months(n=16, 15.3%) and 16 months~4 years of age(n=24, 23.1%). The mean levels of vitamin A of measles and measles-suspected groups were 69.6 ± 28.6 $\mu\text{g/dL}$ and 75.2 ± 34.4 $\mu\text{g/dL}$, respectively, and that of other infectious disease group was 28.1 ± 17.5 $\mu\text{g/dL}$.

Conclusion : The mean levels of vitamin A of both measles and measles-suspected groups were significantly higher than that of other infectious disease group($P < 0.05$) and showed no significant correlations with clinical symptoms and hospitalization duration.

Key Words : Vitamin A, Measles

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(Table 1). IgM Immunofluo-
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Table 1. Diagnostic Classification of the Other Infectious Disease Group

Disease	Number(%)
Bronchiolitis	8(26.6%)
Pneumonia	8(26.6%)
Acute gastroenteritis	8(26.6%)
Urinary tract infection	2(6.6%)
Acute pharyngotonsillitis	1(3.3%)
Scarlet fever	1(3.3%)
Henoch-Schonlein purpura	1(3.3%)
Kawasaki disease	1(3.3%)
Total	30(100.0%)

1.
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29 0~12 42 (40.4%), 14
(48.2%) (Table 2).

Table 2. Age Distribution of the Studied Subjects

Age	Measles				Other infectious diseases	
	IgM(+)		IgM(-)		No.	%
	No.	%	No.	%		
≤3 mo	3	2.9	1	3.4	4	13.3
4~6 mo	8	7.7	5	17.2	1	3.3
7~9 mo	7	6.7	5	17.2	3	10.0
10~12 mo	24	23.1	3	10.3	0	0.0
13~15 mo	16	15.3	3	10.3	2	6.7
16 mo~4 yr	24	23.1	2	6.9	14	46.7
5~9 yr	12	11.5	6	20.7	4	13.3
10~16 yr	10	9.6	4	13.8	2	6.7
Total	104	100.0	29	100.0	30	100.0

2. A
 69.6±28.6 µg/dL, 75.2±34.4 µg/dL
 28.1±17.5 µg/dL
 (P<0.05, Fig. 1).

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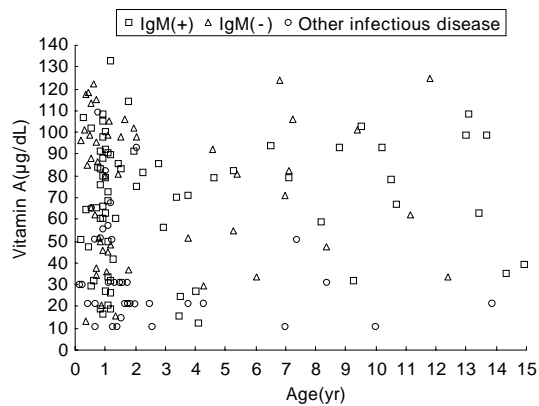


Fig. 1. Distribution of vitamin A levels.

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 (Student's t test, P=0.001)(Table 5).

Table 3. The Mean Vitamin A Levels(µg/dL) by Age

Age(yr)	Measles		Other infectious diseases
	IgM(+)	IgM(-)	
<2	70.8±29.5	73.5±33.0	30.0±18.5
≥2	66.9±26.3	77.8±36.4	25.6±14.2

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Table 4. The Relationship of Fever and Vitamin A Levels(µg/dL)

Vit. A (µg/dL)	Measles						Other infectious disease		
	IgM(+)			IgM(-)			Fever Dur.	Degree	
	Fever Dur.*	Degree		Fever Dur.	Degree			<39°C	≥39°C
		<39°C	≥39°C		<39°C	≥39°C			
≤31	1.1	12/13(92.3%)	1/13(7.7%)	1.3	3/3(100%)	0/3	1.6	24/25(96%)	1/25(4%)
32~99	1.3	51/75(68%)	24/75(32%)	1.2	13/17(76.4%)	4/17(23.5%)	1	4/4(100%)	0/4
100~199	0.76	12/13(92.3%)	1/13(7.7%)	1.7	7/9(77.8%)	2/9(22.2%)	1	1/1(100%)	0/1
Total		104			29			30	

*Dur. : duration in days

Table 5. Hospitalization Days and Laboratory Findings

	Measles		Other infectious diseases
	IgM(+)	IgM(-)	
Hospitalization(day)	5.9±2.5	5.3±2.3	6.6±2.7
Hemoglobin(g/dL)	11.6±1.7	11.9±0.9	12.2±1.2
Hematocrit(%)	33.8±5.4	34.7±2.2	34.6±3.3
Leukocyte/mm ³)	8,513.0±9,165.7	7,233.2±3,034.1	14,295.8±8,613.2
GOT(IU/L)	56.1±38.7*	50.7±12.4*	39.1±13.9
GPT(IU/L)	36.9±57.9*	34.1±10.4*	22.7±12.1
Vit. A(µg/dL)	69.6±28.6	75.1±34.4	28.6±17.5

*P=0.001 compared to the other infectious diseases

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