



Asian Pacific Journal of Tropical Medicine

journal homepage: www.apjtm.org



doi: 10.4103/1995-7645.268165

Impact factor: 1.77

Distribution of hepatitis B virus genotypes in Hainan, China

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Objective: To analyze the distribution of hepatitis B virus (HBV) genotypes in Hainan island, which is one of the most endemic areas of HBV infection in China.

Methods: A total of 52 patients with chronic HBV infection were enrolled. HBV genotypes were determined by nested polymerase chain reaction using genotype-specific primer pairs.

Results: All patients were positive for nested polymerase chain reaction and the genotype B was detected in all patient serum samples. Moreover, 23 of 52 patients (44.2%) have been detected with genotype B and C co-infection.

Conclusions: HBV genotype B is mostly prevalent in Hainan island. Intriguingly, co-infection of genotype B and C was frequently detected in Hainan island, but it may need to be further verified by HBV full genome sequencing analysis.

Keywords: HBV; Genotype; Hainan island

Article history:

Received 11 September 2019

Revised 21 September 2019

Accepted 25 September 2019

Available online 7 October 2019

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Foundation project: The project is supported by National Nature Science Foundation of China (NSFC) under grant No. 81660335 and The Natural Science Foundation of Hainan Province, China under grant No. 819QN237.

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How to cite this article: Chen XJ, Yin FF, Lu G, Cui XJ. Distribution of hepatitis B virus genotypes in Hainan, China. Asian Pac J Trop Med 2019; 12(Suppl 1): 8.