

# The hepatitis virus screening program in Thailand: an eight-year experience of population study

**Wattana Sukeepaisarnjaroen, Udomlack Peansukwech, Kittisak Sawanyawisuth**  
**Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University, Khon Kaen, Thailand**

## BACKGROUND

Hepatitis viruses are an important health problem particularly in developing countries. In Thailand, there is limited data on prevalence and hepatitis virus-related complications in general population. These data may be essential in terms of national database and policy planning in treatment of hepatitis viruses.

## METHODS

The hepatitis virus screening program has been conducted since 2010. The program was announced via radio, website, television, billboard, hospital public relation, and local medical personnel. The program is scheduled every two to three months in most provinces in the northeastern Thailand which is the poor region of the country. All participants are received health education and health evaluation including history taking, physical examination, screening of hepatitis B/ C virus, fibroscan, and ultrasonography of abdomen.

## RESULTS

During the eight years of the program, there were 7,298 participants. Of those, 661 participants (9.06%) were infected with either hepatitis B or hepatitis C virus. There were 306 participants who had ultrasonographic findings. Of those, 48 participants (15.69%) were diagnosed as cirrhosis. Hepatitis B virus and hepatitis C virus accounted for cirrhosis in 37.50% and 56.25%, respectively. There were 131 participants who had fibroscan more than 7.7. The average values (SD) of fibroscan in those with hepatitis B and hepatitis C virus infection were 15.93 (9.25) and 28.01 (21.52), respectively.

## CONCLUSIONS

The prevalence of hepatitis virus in northeastern region of Thailand by the population study was still high. The public health policy regarding detection, treatment, and prevention are strongly encouraged.

## REFERENCES

1. Kohli A, Shaffer A, Sherman A, Kottlil S. Treatment of hepatitis C: a systematic review. *JAMA* 2014;312(6): 631-40.
2. Lim SG, Aghemo A, Chen PJ, et al. Management of hepatitis C virus infection in the Asia-Pacific region: an update. *Lancet Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2017;2(1):52-62.
3. European Association for the Study of the Liver. EASL Recommendations on Treatment of Hepatitis C 2016. *J Hepatol* 2017;66(1):153-94.

## Contact Information

NAME Wattana Sukeepaisarnjaroen  
 TEL NO +66-43-3664  
 EMAIL [wattanasukee@yahoo.com](mailto:wattanasukee@yahoo.com)

## CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.