



## Reflux esophagitis in South Korea and it's relationship to hiatal hernia

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Author contributions: All authors contributed equally to the work.

Original title: *China National Journal of New Gastroenterology* (1995-1997) renamed *World Journal of Gastroenterology* (1998-).

Received: December 11, 1995

Revised: May 21, 1996

Accepted: July 19, 1996

Published online: September 15, 1996

### Abstract

**AIM:** We carried out this study to evaluate the prevalence of reflux esophagitis (RE) and/or hiatal hernia (HH) in Korea and to examine the relationship between endoscopic HH with and without concomitant esophagitis.

**METHODS:** This study was carried out prospectively in 1, 010 patients referred for upper gastrointestinal (UGI) endoscopy at Severance Hospital because of symptoms referable to the gastrointestinal tract from September 1994 to March 1996. The

presence of HH was defined as a circular extension of the gastric mucosa of 2 cm or more above the diaphragmatic hiatus.

**RESULTS:** Hiatal hernia was found in 5.4%, reflux esophagitis 4.1%, duodenal ulcer (DU) 7.3%, and gastric ulcer (GU) 8.3%. The prevalence of HH but not RE appeared to be increased with age. Both HH and the degree of esophagitis on endoscopy. Duodenal ulcer was the most frequent concomitant finding among other gastrointestinal conditions.

**CONCLUSION:** The prevalence of RE and/or HH in South Korea is relatively lower, compared with peptic ulcer disease, and other reports from western countries. Our study confirms a close association between HH and RE.

**Key words:** Reflux esophagitis; Hiatal hernia

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Park HJ, Yeom JS, Jung JK, Lee SI, Pard IS. Reflux esophagitis in South Korea and it's relationship to hiatal hernia. *World J Gastroenterol* 1996; 2(Suppl1): 144  
Available from: URL: <http://www.wjgnet.com/1007-9327/full/v2/iSuppl1/144.htm>  
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3748/wjg.v2.iSuppl1.144>

E- Editor: Liu WX



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