

中文題目：在臺灣此慢性 B 型肝炎盛行區中肝細胞癌患者甲型胎兒蛋白(Alpha-Fetoprotein)上升之比率是穩定的

英文題目：Stationary Trend in Elevated Serum Alpha-Fetoprotein Level of HCC Patients in Taiwan, an Area Endemic for Chronic Hepatitis B

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Background: A recent study from the US showed a decreasing trend in elevated serum alpha-fetoprotein (AFP) level (i.e., ≥ 20 ng/ml) in hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) patients at the time of diagnosis. Furthermore, advanced tumor stage and severe underlying liver disease were associated with elevated AFP level. We aimed to evaluate this issue in an area endemic for hepatitis B virus (HBV).

Method: Between 2011 and 2020, 4031 patients were newly diagnosed with HCC at our institution. After excluding 54 patients with unknown AFP data, the remaining 3977 patients were enrolled in this study. Elevated AFP level was defined as ≥ 20 ng/ml.

Results: Overall, 51.2% of HCC patients had elevated AFP levels; this proportion remained stationary between 2011 and 2020 (51.8% vs 51.1%). Multivariate analysis showed that female gender (odds ratio (OR) = 1.462; $p < 0.001$), tumor size per 10 mm increase (OR = 1.155; $p < 0.001$), multiple tumors (OR = 1.406; $p < 0.001$), Barcelona Clinic Liver Cancer stages B - D (OR = 1.247; $p = 0.019$), cirrhosis (OR = 1.288; $p = 0.02$), total bilirubin > 1.4 mg/dL (OR = 1.218; $p = 0.030$), and HBV- or hepatitis C virus (HCV)-positive status (OR = 1.720; $p < 0.001$) were associated with elevated AFP level.

Conclusion: A stationary trend in elevated serum AFP level in HCC patients has been noted in the recent 10 years. Advanced tumor stage, severe underlying liver disease, viral etiology, and female gender are associated with elevated AFP level in HCC patients.