Re: Epidemiology of hepatitis E virus in children

Thank you very much for your close interest in our study. Our responses to the questions you asked are listed below:

As you stated, the main route of transmission in HEV infection is the fecal-oral route, and hepatitis E seropositivity in infants substantially reflects the antibodies transferred from the mother. The reason that we also included children aged below six months was the fact that breastmilk might not be the only source of nutrition in this age group and nutritional supplements including mainly water might be given besides breastmilk. Therefore, we also included patients below the age of six months in our study.

We had already compared the HEV IgG-positive subjects with the HEV IgG negative subjects in our study. However, we only showed the HEV IgG positive subjects in the table.

It is known that hepatitis E may be transmitted by blood transfusion (1, 2). History of surgery was interrogated because patients with a history of surgery might have received blood transfusions.

In our country, the definitions of locations are made according to the population. In Turkey, locations where 150 people inhabit are called villages. Locations with a population above 2000 and below 20,000 are called towns, and locations with a population above 20,000 are called cities. What we mean by “city water” is water running in the water supply network in cities that is safe for drinking.

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