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Molecular epidemiology of waterborne viruses in South Korea

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Norovirus is a major cause of viral gastroenteritis and a common cause of food-borne and waterborne outbreaks. *Norovirus* outbreaks are responsible for economic losses, most notably to the public health and food industry field. *Norovirus* has characteristics such as low infectious dose, prolonged shedding period, strong stability, great diversity and frequent genome mutations. Besides these characteristics, they are known for rapid and extensive spread in closed settings such as hospitals, hotels and schools. *Norovirus* is well known as a major agent of food-poisoning in diverse settings in South Korea. For these reasons, nationwide surveillance for *Norovirus* is active in both clinical and environmental settings in South Korea. Recent studies have reported the emergence of variants and novel recombinants of *Norovirus*. In this review, we summarized studies on the molecular epidemiology and nationwide surveillance of *Norovirus* in South Korea. This review will provide information for vaccine development and prediction of new emerging variants of *Norovirus* in South Korea.

Biography

Lae-Hyung Kang is currently a Doctoral candidate from Catholic University School of Medicine. He has completed his Master's degree from Catholic University School of Medicine.

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