

# Prevalence of Laryngeal Diseases in South Korea : Data from the Korea National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey from 2008 to 2010

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## Objectives

The aims of this study were to evaluate the prevalence of laryngeal diseases in Korea.

## Methods

We obtained data from the 2008 to 2010 Korea National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys (KNHANES), which were cross-sectional surveys of the civilian, non institutionalized population of South Korea (total N=23,330). A field survey team that included an otolaryngologist, nurses, and interviewers moved with a mobile examination unit and performed laryngologic interviews and vocal folds were examined by using rigid telescopic laryngoscope over 19 years old (N=16,868).

## Results

Laryngoscopic examination revealed that 16,168 (95.9%)

were normal. The prevalence of True Vocal Cord (TVC) nodules, polyp, cyst and leukoplakia were 2.43%, 0.7%, 0.19% and 0.24%, respectively. TVC nodule was common among Korean adults. Subjective dysphonia was found in 5.22% of the participants, and the prevalence of subjective dysphonia increased at thirty.

## Conclusion

This is the first nation-wide epidemiologic study to assess the prevalence of laryngologic diseases by both the Korean Otolaryngologic Society and the Ministry of Health and Welfare. The results of this large epidemiologic study provide valuable information regarding the prevalence of voice disorders and manage laryngologic diseases.