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## The Distribution of HLA-B\*15:01 and HLA-B\*51:01 Alleles in Thai Population: Clinical Implementation and Diagnostic Process of COVID-19 Severity

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Abstract: Introduction: In a Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA)'s immune response, HLA alleles (HLA class I and class II) play a crucial role in fighting against pathogens. HLA-B\*15:01 allele had a significant association with asymptomatic COVID-19 infection (p-value = 5.67 x 10-5; OR = 2.40 and 95% CI = 1.54 - 3.64). There was also a notable linkage between HLA-B\*51:01 allele and critically ill patients with COVID-19 (p-value = 0.007 and OR = 3.38). This study has described the distribution of HLA marker alleles in Thais and sub-groups. Objective: We want to investigate the prevalence of HLA-B\*15:01 and HLA-B\*51:01 alleles in the Thai population. Materials and Methods: 200 healthy Thai population were included in this study from the College of Pharmacy, Rangsit University. HLA-B alleles were genotyped using the sequence-specific oligonucleotides process (PCR-SSOs). Results: We found out that HLA-B\*46:01 (12.00%), HLA-B\*15:02 (9.25%), HLA-B\*40:01 (6.50%), HLA-B\*13:01 (6.25%), and HLA-B\*38:02 (5.50%) alleles were more common than other alleles in Thai population. HLA-B\*46:01 and HLA-B\*51:01 alleles were similarly distributed in Thai population (0.50, 5.25%) and (p-value > 0.05), respectively. The frequencies of HLA-B\*15:01 and HLA-B\*51:01 alleles were not significantly different from other populations compared to the Thai population. Conclusions: We can screen for HLA-B\*15:01 and HLA-B\*51:01 alleles to determine the symptoms of COVID-19 since they are universal HLA-B markers. Importantly, the database of HLA markers indicates the association between HLA frequency and populations. However, we need further research on larger numbers of COVID-19 patients and in different populations.

**Keywords:** HLA-B\*15:01, HLA-B\*51:01, COVID-19, HLA-B alleles

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