

## Noise Levels in a General Hospital

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**Abstract :** The World Health Organization recommends that the acceptable (LEQ) noise levels in the hospitals should not exceed 40 dB (A) during the day and 35 dB (A) during the night. We evaluated sources and levels of noise in a general hospital in Taegu, Korea. A noise dosimeter MK3 was used on the decibel-A scale combined with observation. The study showed that most areas in the hospital has been exposed to high noise levels exceeding 50 dB, affecting both the hospital staff and the patients. noise level in the intensive care unit were higher by 27 dB (A) than recommended hospitals levels. To improve the environmental conditions of the hospital, awareness of the problem of noise by hospital staff and modulation of medical equipments by their manufacturers may be needed

**Key words :** Hospital, Intensive care unit, Noise level

sound)

(unpleasant

가

[1,2].

가, , , 1 8  
 [3]. ,  
 1 7 ,  
 가 가 ,  
 40 dB, 35 dB 가  
 [4]. 가

가 [5-9]. Bayo [9]

55 dB  
 [10]  
 가  
 240 75%가 60 dB  
 [11] [12]

dosimeter(MK3, AMETEK, ) noise  
 가  

9	30	30
2	30	30

76 ,  
 60-64 dB,  
 50-54 dB  
 (Fig. 1).  
 50 dB 70  
 dB 가 ,  
 가  
 가 73.1 dB  
 가 68.5  
 (Table 1).

1.  
 50 dB 70 dB  
 가  
 1 1 2002 1  
 1 2003 1

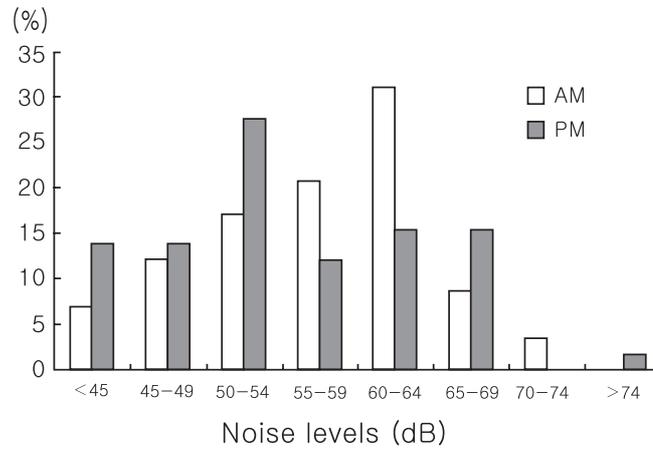


Fig. 1. Distribution of noise levels by time measured.

Table 1. Noise levels according to sources at the out-patient building

Source	Noise level (dB)	
	AM	PM
Admission information desk	55.6	53.0
General information desk	64.1	52.3
Pharmacy reception	59.1	36.2
Administration reception 1	68.9	53.9
Administration reception 2	64.3	51.6
Admission reception (1st floor)	66.8	56.8
Discharge reception (1st floor)	68.2	67.3
Emergency room reception	54.8	57.5
Nuclear medicine reception	52.0	53.9
Diagnostic radiology reception	65.9	53.3
Orthopedics outpatient reception (2nd floor)	48.1	43.7
Clinical pathology reception (2nd floor)	60.5	51.6
Outpatient clinic reception (3rd floor)	60.0	61.2
Outpatient clinic reception (4th floor)	63.8	65.3
Pediatrics reception (5th floor)	51.4	62.9
OB/GYN reception (5th floor)	50.9	54.9
Outpatient clinic reception (6th floor)	57.9	66.3
Outpatient clinic reception (7th floor)	55.6	37.6
Psychiatry reception (8th floor)	59.4	60.9
Dentistry reception (8th floor)	46.6	68.5
Kidney center reception (3rd floor)	73.4	51.6

OB/GYN: obstetric and gynecology.

가

(Table 2).

**Table 2.** Noise levels according to nurse stations of the in-patient buildings by wards and time measured (January 2002)

Source	AM	PM	Day's bed	Average bed
			utilization rate (%)	utilization rate (%)
Emergency				
Room 1	64.4	75.2		
Emergency				
Room 2	62.2	69.3		
11 Ward	60.3	56.1	88.5	93.2
21 Ward	70.1	62.2	100	97.4
31 Ward	63.0	43.7	95.8	96.0
32 Ward	45.9	54.4	82.5	87.4
33 Ward	57.1	67.0	94.9	96.2
41 Ward	52.3	66.9	100.0	97.9
51 Ward	57.5	50.4	88.6	85.9
52 Ward	49.8	59.4	98.7	96.9
61 Ward	55.2	61.6	98.4	96.6
62 Ward	52.7	64.5	90.5	80.0
63 Ward	56.4	60.3	100.0	93.7
72 Ward	50.6	64.0	97.3	92.2
74 Ward	59.6	67.4	100.0	97.7
75 Ward	61.3	65.6	100.0	97.3
84 Ward	55.4	53.7	90.0	81.7

, 40 dB 가  
 . 40 dB ,  
 (Table 3). 45 dB 가  
 가  
 1 가  
 가  
 (WHO) 가 , 가  
 40 dB, 35 dB 가 60 dB  
 [4], 가  
 (Environmental Protection Agency) 가  
 (peak sound level) 2  
 45 dB 35 dB . 9  
 . Grumet[13] 30  
 67 dB 10 가  
 가 가



가 . 40 dB .  
가가 [11] 가  
[16].

가 가 . Tsiou [17]  
가 가  
75-92 dB 가  
가 49-72 dB 가  
WHO 27 dB  
56 dB  
[12]

가 ,  
가 ,  
가 ,

가 가  
[18,19]. “ ”

가 가 [16].  
가 가 . Cropp [20]  
60 dB 가 10  
가 100  
50%, 40%  
가

WHO 27 .  
dB 가 86 dB 55-  
64 dB



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