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                           7.557 ± 1.868 mm
                                                     7.591 ± 2.315 mm
                        (p > 0.05).
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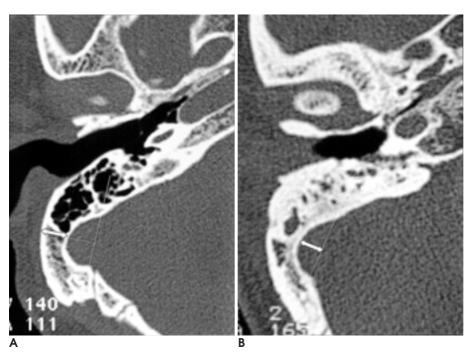
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HRCT)	Somatom Plus 2	24 (Siemens Medica	l System,			9.74 mm,
Erlanger	n, Germany)	1 mm	,	8.67 r	nm	12.54 mm,
			TBCT	11.78 mm		

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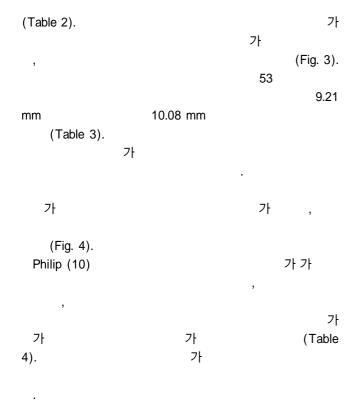
**Table 1.** Mean Axial Thickness of Mastoid Bone (MATMB) and Mean Depth of Sigmoid Sinus (MDSS) in Chronic Otomastoiditis (COM) and Normal Ears

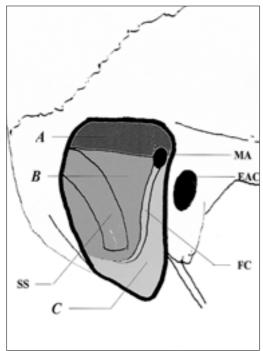
Ear	Number of cases	MATMB (mm)	MDSS (mm)
COM	107	$9.67 \pm 2.74$	$7.56 \pm 1.87$
Normal	49	$12.43 \pm 3.03$	$7.59 \pm 2.32$
<i>p</i> value		< 0.0001	> 0.05



, t-test

- **Fig. 1.** Axial computed tomography of temporal bone at the level of external auditory canal
- **A.** The axial thickness of mastoid bone is defined as the shortest distance between the deepest border of sigmoid sinus and the outer cortical margin of mastoid bone (arrow).
- **B.** The depth of sigmoid sinus is defined as the maximum vertical distance at the imaginary line between bony edges (arrow).





**Fig. 2.** The schematic diagram of lateral view of mastoid bone shows the classification of mastoid pneumatization by Phillips (10)

EAC: external auditary canal, FC: facial canal, MA: mastoid antrum, SS: sigmoid sinus

**A** (dark area): superior group, **B** (gray area): postero-medial group, **C** (whitish gray): antero-inferior group

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**Table 2.** Comparison of Mean Axial Thickness of Mastoid Bone of Adult & Child Groups in COM & Normal Ears

Mean axial thickness of mastoid bone				
	COM ears (n = 107)	Normal ears $(n = 49)$	p value	
Adult group	$9.74 \pm 2.73 $ (n = 100)	$12.54 \pm 3.04 (n = 42)$	< 0.0001	
Child group	$8.67 \pm 2.98 (n = 7)$	$11.78 \pm 3.09 (n = 7)$	< 0.05	

COM: chronic otomastoiditis

**Table 3.** Comparison of Mean Axial Thickness of Mastoid Bone (MATMB) in Child-onset and Adult-onset Groups according to the Clinical Onset Time on Medical Records

	Number of cases $(n = 53)$	MAT MB (mm)
Child-onset group	24	$9.21 \pm 2.16$
Adult-onset group	29	$10.08 \pm 2.99$
		(p < 0.05)

**Table 4.** The Correlation between the Degree of Mastoid Pneumatization and Mean Axial Thickness of Mastoid Bone (MATMB) in Chronic Otomastoiditis

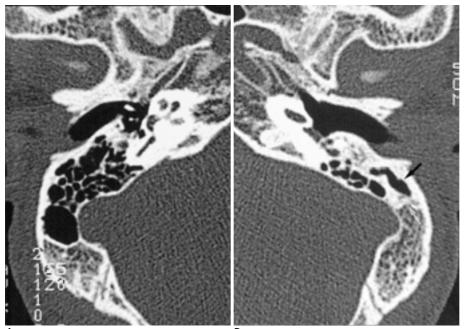
the degree of pneumatization	Number of cases $(n = 105)$	MATMB (mm )	
A group	22	$8.06 \pm 2.69$	
A + B  or  A + C  group	45	$9.89 \pm 2.33$	
A + B + C group	37	10.64 ± 3.02	

Note ;A group: superior group, lying above a plane passing posteriorly horizontal from the antrum to where the lateral sinus joins the cortex of the squama

B group: anteroinferior group, extending from the anteroinferior margin of the antrum along the posterior wall of the canal, include the cells at the tip as far back posteriorly as where the digastric crest joins the cortex.

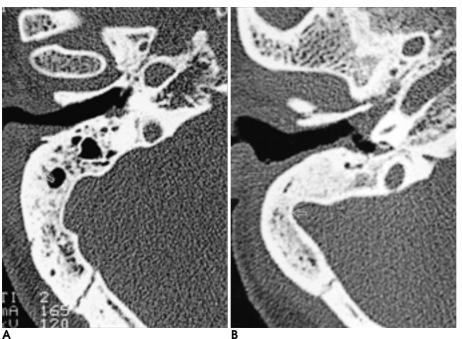
C group: posteromedial group, lying in front of, immediately over and posterior to the lateral sinus

\*non-pneumatization group (n = 2) is excluded, n = 105, r = 0.3326



**Fig. 3.** 47-year-old woman with chronic otomastoiditis on the left

Axial CT scan of the diseased side (**B**) shows the mastoid pneumatization limited to the superior (not shown) and antero-inferior groups (black arrow), and anterior extension of sclerosis (white arrow), as compared with the normal side (**A**). Also, There is definite difference in the axial thickness of mastoid bone between diseased and normal sides.



**Fig. 4.** Two cases of chronic otomastoiditis with different onset of clinical symptom

- **A.** 38-year-old man with COM suffered from otorrhea for 2 years. Axial CT scan of temporal bone shows that all of the groups of mastoid pneumatization are relatively decreased with anterior extension of sclerosis (arrow).
- **B.** 52-year-old woman with chronic otomastoiditis suffered from hearing loss for 40 years. Axial CT scan of temporal bone shows the complete absence of antero-inferior and posteromedial groups of mastoid pneumatization, except the superior group (not shown), and the sclerosis extends to the lateral aspect of sigmoid sinus (arrow). Also, there is definite difference in the axial thickness of mastoid bones each other.

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## The Relation between Mastoid Pneumatization and Sigmoid Sinus Position in Chronic Otomastoiditis<sup>1</sup>

Kee Hyuk Yang, M.D., Dong Woo Park, M.D., Seung Ro Lee, M.D., Kyung Bin Joo, M.D.

<sup>1</sup>Department of Radiology, College of Medicine, Hanyang University

**Purpose:** If significantly influenced by chronic otomastoiditis(COM), mastoid pneumatization and the position of the sigmoid sinus affect the operative procedure and postoperative complications in middle ear surgery. We evaluated mastoid pneumatization and sigmoid sinus position, and their relationship in COM, especially its during onset.

**Materials and Methods:** Using temporal bone CT and referring to any relevant medical records, we retrospectively analyzed 107 cases of COM and 49 cases of normal ear. The total case load comprised an adult group, aged above 16 years [100 cases of COM [M:F=46:54, mean age = 45 years], and 42 cases of normal ear, [M:F=20:22, mean age = 44 years]], and a childhood group, aged less than 16 years [7 cases of COM [M:F=4:3, mean age = 8.4 years]]. We determined the thickness of the mastoid bone by measuring the shortest distance between the outer cortex of this bone and the deepest border of the sigmoid sinus; the depth of the sigmoid sinus; and the degree of mastoid pneumatization and sclerosis. Fifty-three patients whose medical history clearly included the onset of otomastoiditis were divided into a child-onset group and an adult-onset group, and the relationship between the onset of otomastoiditis and the thickness of the mastoid bone was compared between the two groups.

**Results:** The mean axial thickness of the mastoid bone was  $9.672 \pm 2.745$  mm in COM and  $12.430 \pm 3.027$  mm in normal ear. The difference was statisfically significant (p < 0.0001). The mean depth of the sigmoid sinus was  $7.557 \pm 1.868$  mm in COM and  $7.591 \pm 2.315$  mm in normal ear, with no statistically significant difference. In the childhood group, the mean axial thickness of the mastoid bone was  $8.672 \pm 2.978$  mm in COM and  $11.778 \pm 3.087$  mm in normal ear. This difference was statistically significant (p < 0.05). In the adult group, the corresponding figures were  $9.742 \pm 2.731$  mm in COM and  $12.538 \pm 3.041$  mm in normal ear, a difference which was also statistically significant (p < 0.0001). Among patients with an obvious history of COM, child-onset cases totalled 24 (mean axial thickness of the mastoid bone,  $9.2.0 \pm 2.158$  mm), while there were 29 adult-onset cases (mean axial thickness,  $10.08 \pm 2.99$  mm). This difference in thickness between child-onset and adult-onset COM was statistically significant (p < 0.05).

**Conclusion:** In COM, the degree of mastoid pneumatization is proportional to the axial thickness of the mastoid bone, and inversely proportional to the degree of sclerosis, anterior location of the sigmoid sinus and the onset of COM. If the sigmoid sinus is properly located, COM may inhibit mastoid pneumatization.

**Index words :** Ear, inflammation and infection Temporal bone, CT

Address reprint requests to: Dong Woo Park, M.D., Department of Diagnostic Radiology, College of Medicine, Hanyang University 249-1 Kyomoon-dong, Kuri, Kyunggi-do 471-701, Korea.

Tel. 82-31-560-2543 Fax. 82-31-560-2551 E-mail: dwpark@email.hanyang.ac.kr