

POF004: Thursday 10th KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**Importance of Selecting/Training the Use of Respirators: Review of
Infected Cases of Health Care Workers(HCWs) Against MERS-CoV
in 2015 Korea.**

Hyunwook Kim

Presenter's affiliation:

**Dept. of Prev. Med, College of Med, The Catholic Univ. of Korea.
222 Banpo-daero, Seocho-gu, Seoul, 06591, Rep. of Korea.**

E-mail: hwkim@catholic.ac.kr

Abstract

The bitter lessons learned from MERS-CoV epidemics in 2015 will be remembered among Korean whenever infectious epidemics hit the globe. A total of 186 cases were confirmed as positive with 38 deaths (20.4%), and billions of dollars were lost economically. In addition, a total of 37 confirmed cases were found among HCWs, including doctors, nurses, paramedics, and even an ambulance driver.

Though droplets from patients were considered as a primary spreader, aerosols are being suspected as a secondary contributor. Wearing N95 respirators to protect from respiratory infection was and still is recommended as a control measure, although its efficacy is being questioned due to limited protection factors of N95 and lack of training for HCWs. We will review several cases of MERS infection cases among HCWs in Korea and the results of fit testing using N95 for HCWs.

The results will be useful for selecting suitable respirators against infectious agents and for protecting HCWs in the future.