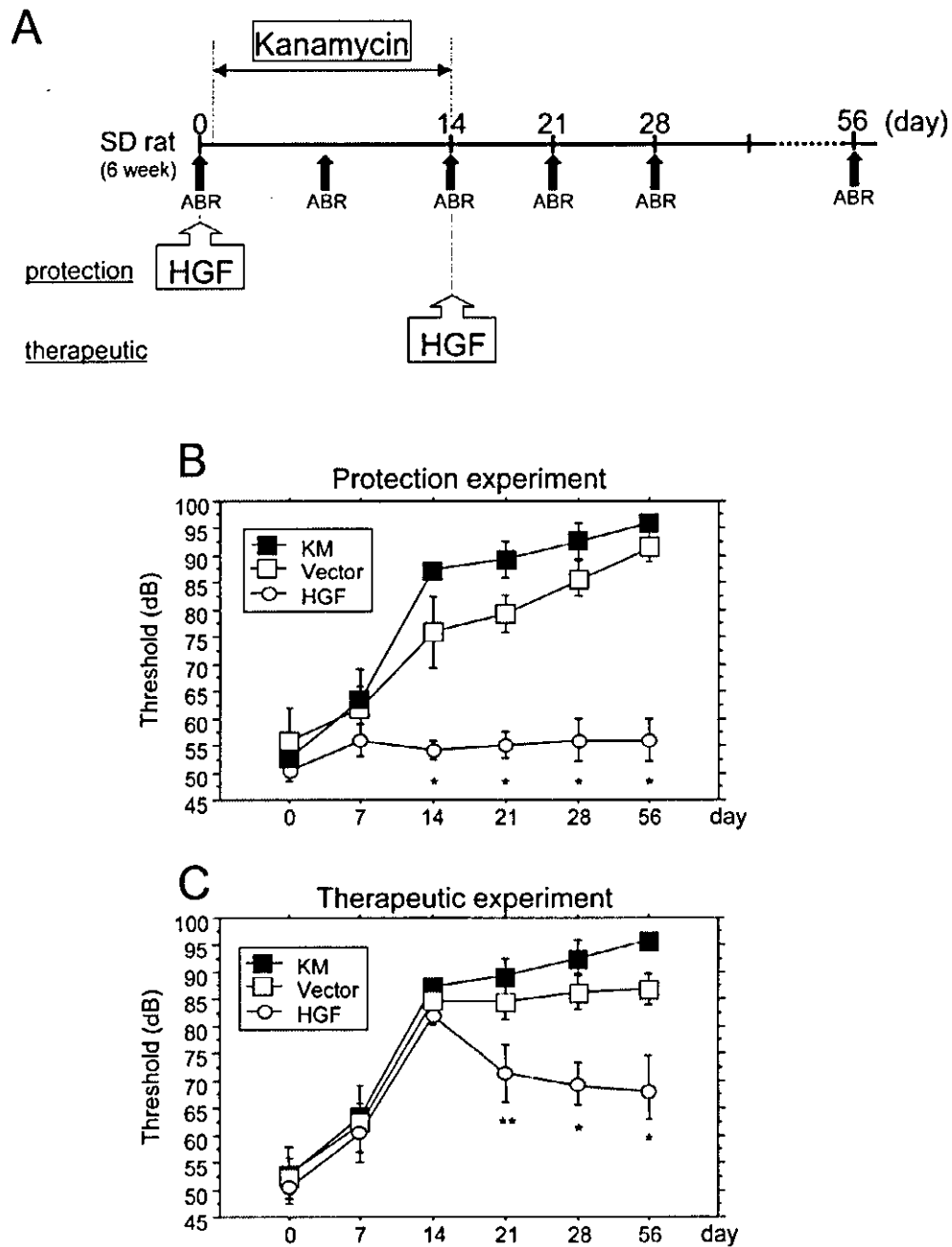


Fig. 5



**Figure 5.** Hearing function of rats treated with KM, KM + vector, or KM + HGF was evaluated by the auditory threshold using ABR. Time course of the experiment was illustrated in A. In the protection experiment (B), rats treated with the HVJ-E containing control vector (vector) or HVJ-E containing the human *HGF* gene (HGF) immediately before the kanamycin insult underwent evaluation of the auditory threshold on days 0, 7, 14, 21, 28, and 56. In the therapeutic experiment (C), rats were treated with the HVJ-E containing control vector (vector) or HVJ-E containing the human *HGF* gene (HGF) 14 days after the kanamycin insult and the auditory threshold was measured at each time point. KM means the auditory threshold of rats treated only with kanamycin. Six rats were used in each group. Means  $\pm$  SD of each value are indicated.  $\square$ : KM group;  $\square$ : KM + vector group;  $\circ$ : KM + HGF group. \* $P < 0.01$ ; \*\* $P < 0.05$ .