

## THE BACTERIOLOGY OF POST-SURGICAL WOUND INFECTION IN KANDY : A PRELIMINARY REPORT

M. R. M. Pinto and C. Navaratnam

(Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya)

Wound infection following surgery is a common and important problem complicating surgical procedures and unfortunately a common occurrence in Sri Lanka. This paper is a preliminary report of an on going study of the bacteriological agents causing such infections, occurring following surgery on sites without previous infection.

Swabs of discharge from wounds found clinically infected, from 79 patients in hospitals in Kandy following surgery, were cultured both aerobically and anaerobically on blood agar and MacConkey's agar. Of these, 12 specimens yielded no growth ; 24 specimens yielded single strains of gram positive organisms ; 23 specimens yielded single strains of gram negative organisms and 20 yielded more than one strain of organism, commonly both gram positive and gram negative from the same specimen. The identity of the strains isolated was established using standard bacteriological techniques. One specimen yielded both *Escherichia coli* and *Salmonella typhi murium*. Pus from the wound on this latter patient was bacteriologically investigated on five other occasions following initial examination and continued to yield *Salmonella typhi murium* alone—a noteworthy finding, in that there seems to be no previous reports of wound infection with this organism. No anaerobes were isolated in this series.

## **SECTION A**

All strains of bacteria isolated were tested for sensitivity to commonly used antibiotics. The prevalence of drug resistance among the strains isolated was high. The highest incidence of drug sensitivity among both gram positive and gram negative organisms was seen with Gentamycin and Cotrimoxazole, suggesting that these drugs may be of the greatest value in the treatment of such wound infections.