

A - 05 **ROTA VIRUS INFECTION AMONG CHILDREN FROM LOW SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUPS  
IN COLOMBO**

**Lalitha N. Mendis<sup>1</sup>, D. G. H. de Silva<sup>2</sup>,  
Priyani Soysa<sup>2</sup> and S. P. Lamabadusuriya<sup>2</sup>**  
*(Department of Microbiology<sup>1</sup> and Paediatrics<sup>2</sup>,  
University of Colombo, Faculty of Medicine, Colombo 8)*

It was previously established by us that rota virus infection was prevalent among Sri Lankan Children. Its seasonal prevalence and age related incidence has so far not been studied in this country. We have collected over a period of one year (May 1980-April 1981), stools from 326 consecutive cases of Diarrhoea admitted to the Professor's unit at the Lady Ridgeway Hospital. These were examined by Enzyme Immuno Assay for rota virus.

98 (30%) specimens contained rota virus. Infection by the virus was more prevalent throughout the year but more so in the rainy season (July-November) accounting for (33-51%) of cases. The highest incidence of rota virus infection was observed in the 4 month—2 year age group (34.6%). The lowest incidence was in infants below 3 months (13.3%). More children with rota virus diarrhoea presented with watery diarrhoea and vomiting (75.8% and 71% respectively) than those with non-viral diarrhoea (54.2% and 60.8% respectively). 8.4% of children with rota virus infection passed blood in their stools. This is a clinical feature which has not previously been reported in relation to rota virus infection.