

**THE PHARYNGEAL CARRIER RATE OF GROUP A, B-HAEMOLYTIC STREPTOCOCCI  
AND STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS IN SCHOOL CHILDREN AT KANDY**

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Infections by *Group A, B-haemolytic Streptococci* and *Staphylococcus aureus* are common in childhood and a major source of such infections may be from carriers. Despite this, there is little data on the carrier rate of these organisms in Sri Lanka. In this study the methods used were those of Rotta and Facklam (World Health Organisation WHO/BAC/80.1).

655 school children without respiratory symptoms were studied. Of these, 115 (18%) yielded *Group A, B-haemolytic Streptococci*; 61 (9%) yielded non *Group A, B-haemolytic Streptococci* and 51 (8%) *Staph. aureus*. The highest incidence of Group A Streptococcal carriers was found in the 14-15 year age group (22%) and 16-17 year age group (24%), while there were 13% carriers of *Staph. aureus* in the 10-11 year age group.