

ADENOVIRUS ASSOCIATED CHILDHOOD  
DIARRHOEA IN SRI LANKA

Innocent Jayawardene \*, Lalitha Mendis \*,  
Kamalika Abeyratne \*\* and D. Mendis \*\*  
\*Dept. of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine,  
University of Colombo  
\*\*Children's Hospital, Colombo

Fastidious enteric adenoviruses (serotype 40 and 41) have for over a decade been recognised as important causes of acute gastroenteritis in young children, but adenovirus associated diarrhoea has not so far been described in Sri Lanka. Preliminary results of an ongoing study are presented.

Between January and June 1989, the stools of 340 consecutive cases of acute gastroenteritis from two wards at the Children's Hospital, Colombo were examined for enteric adenovirus using a latex agglutination test. 17 of 340 (5%) were positive for adenovirus. 8 of the 17 cases infected with adenovirus were infected with at least one more diarrhoeal pathogen.

Adenovirus was detected throughout the six month under study with a higher incidence (11.5%) in March.

Where histories were available only one of nine (11%) gave a contact history of diarrhoea. Children between the ages of 3 months and 11 years were infected, the median and mean age being 2 years 2 months<sup>9</sup> and 3 years 7 months respectively.

The average duration of diarrhoea in children infected with adenovirus alone was 8 days and in children infected with adenovirus and one or more other diarrhoeal pathogen, 9 days. Adenovirus infected children presented with watery, blood and mucus and mucoid diarrhoea. 78% of adenovirus infected children had fever. Dehydration was not a problem for only of (11%) presented with mild dehydration.

#### References:

Middleton P.J., Szymanski M.T., and Petric M., (1977) Viruses associated with acute gastroenteritis in young children.  
American Journal of Diseases of Children. 131, 733 - 737