Electron microscopy and polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (PAGE) are 100% specific, but slightly less sensitive than the ELISAs. ELISA is most sensitive compared with other tests used. It also gives a rapid diagnosis and does not require any sophisticated equipment except ELISA reader. Thus, all children presenting with greenish liquid stools, especially during the winter months, should be routinely screened for rotavirus by ELISA, as it is a rapid and sensitive method for detection of rotavirus.

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References


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A Serological Study of Leptospirosis among Hospitalized Jaundice Patients in and around Kolkata

Dear Editor,

Leptospirosis, a direct anthropozoonosis has gained importance both in man and animals and is assuming greater dimension as a re-emerging disease. In India, various workers have reported the disease from various parts of the country. But systemic studies are limited. The true incidence of human leptospirosis in West Bengal, particularly in Kolkata metropolitan city is not known either because of a lack of awareness on the part of the technicians (both physicians and veterinarians) or the lack of diagnostic techniques. The present study has been undertaken as a pilot study. It places on record the serological evidence of leptospirosis in hospitalized jaundice patients in and around Kolkata by using microscopical agglutination test (MAT).

Forty two consecutive patients admitted with jaundice as a predominant clinical symptom were taken into consideration in this serological survey work for leptospirosis between the period of January to June, 2003. About 5mL of blood collected from each patient was kept undisturbed for about 2-3 hours at room temperature. The sera were separated and preserved at –20°C until use.

All the samples were examined against four leptospiral serovars namely – L.interrogans serovar canicola, pomona, icterohaemorrhagiae and grippotyphosa. These were kindly provided by PMRC, Port Blair, Andaman. The organisms were maintained in EMJH (Ellinghausen, McCullough, Johnson and Harris) semi-solid and liquid media in the laboratory at 29°C in screw-capped test tubes containing 5mL media (liquid). Cultures of 4-7 days were used as antigens. Hyperimmune sera were raised against the four serovars in duplicate leptospira-antibody-free healthy rabbits by injecting serial increasing dose of leptospiroa liquid.
The prevalence of these four leptospiral serovars in hospitalized jaundice patients was statistically highly significant (p<0.01). *L. pomona* was found as the most prevalent serovar in these patients. The highest occurrence of this serovar in these patients and the huge pig population in this region may be indicative of these animals as the natural reservoir host for this species of leptospira in particular. Besides, the huge rodent population, and the intermingling of these rodents with the pigs and close association with humans may also be a source of infection for these patients with this serovar. The seroprevalence of these serovars in human jaundice patients had also been studied by Joseph and Kalra in northern India. They found a very low prevalence of only 3 patients (one with *L. icterohaemorrhagiae* and *L. pomona* and two with *L. icterohaemorrhagiae*) out of 43 positive for agglutination reaction. The present findings might therefore demand the extra attention for the prevention of this disease.

**References**


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**Invasiveness – An Indicator of Differentiation of Virulent and Non Virulent Isolates of *Yersinia enterocolitica***

Dear Editor,

*Yersinia enterocolitica*, an emerging pathogen has been implicated as causative agent for a number of clinical manifestations predominantly diarrhea. Invasiveness into epithelial cells is an important pathogenic mechanism of enteric bacteria, including strains of *Shigella, Salmonella, Escherichia coli* and *Yersinia*. Clinically, the invasive bacteria are capable of producing dysenteried like disease or exudative diarrhoea. Pathogenic *Y. enterocolitica* strains are characterized by their ability to adhere to and invade epithelial cells. Demonstration of epithelial invasiveness of *Enterobacteriacea* can be done by Sereny test. To assess the relative importance of Sereny test twelve isolates of *Y. enterocolitica* were tested by Sereny test...