

STUDY OF PATHOGENIC E. COLI IN CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM GASTROENTERITIS

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Many authors from different parts of the World have reported enteritis caused by Enteropathogenic Escherichia Coli (E.E.C.), but the incidence of coli-enteritis and the distribution of E.E.C. types is still incomplete. A survey has been undertaken among diarrhoeal patients as well as normal individuals in the Dacca area to determine the frequency of coli-enteritis and the types of E.E.C. found in various age groups.

The results obtained in this study indicate that E. Coli are significant in diarrhoeal diseases of infants in the study area. Approximately 6 percent of diarrhoeal patients were found to contain E.E.C. in contrast to approx. 0.4 to 0.6% in the normal population. Most of the E.E.C. isolated from patients were obtained from children less than 1-2 years of age. Very seldom they have been isolated from the stool of children who did not have diarrhoea.

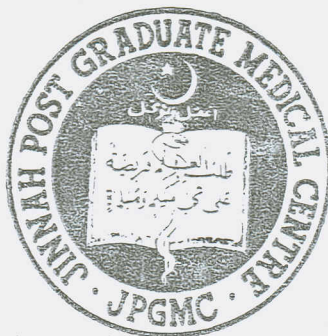
The results of this study clearly illustrate the correlation between young age and susceptibility to infection with E.E.C.; the younger the individual, the more susceptible he is.

It has been noted that in cases with diarrhoea in all age groups especially infants 7 varieties of E.E.C. were isolated excepting 0125/B15; Types 026/B6, 0127/B8 & 0128/B12 were most common and types 055/B5; 0111/B4 & 0119/B14 & 0126/B16 were less frequently found.

In a few cases two types of E. coli have been isolated from the same stool, the combination being only 026/B6 & 055/B5. Mixed infection with E.E.C. & V. cholerae as well as salmonellas has also been observed in a few cases of diarrhoea.

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