

✓ DIARRHOEAL DISEASES MICROBIOLOGICAL ASPECT

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As in the most developing countries of the world diarrhea causes a great deal of morbidity and mortality in Bangladesh. Among the organisms associated with acute diarrheal disease are the etiologic agents of cholera, gastroenteritis, bacillary dysentery, infantile diarrhea and travellers diarrhea. Microbiological diagnosis of the causative organism of the disease not only help in confirming the disease but also in characterising the organisms for its toxigenicity, pathogenecity and antibiotic sensistivity. In some cases e.g. cholera, a positive isolation of the causative organisms, *V. cholera* from any clinical source is the only confirmation of it being a case of cholera or else it would have been diagnosed as a case of gastroenteritis. The increasing incidence of cholera in many countries of the world and the quicker spread of this organism surely needs prompt bacteriological diagnosis to check spread of the disease. During the past few years there is an increase in the resistance of *E. coli* and shigella against commonly used antimicrobial drugs which reflects the gradual accuiring of resistance. Infantile diarrhea is another problem which is attributed mainly to Enterotoxigenic *E. coli*. Recent studies have clearly shown that essentially all of the children in a community acquire Rotavirus diarrhea by the age of 3 years. With further studies on the enterotoxin production of *E. coli* the diagnosis of causative organism of travellers diarrhea has been marked. This paper will deal mainly with the microbiological diagnosis of the disease and its possible implication on treatment and research will be discussed.

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