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Abstract (poster session)

A clinico-epidemiological comparison study of paediatric acute viral gastroenteritis in South Korea

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Objectives: Acute viral gastroenteritis, especially rotavirus, norovirus, enteric adenovirus, and astrovirus is a common disorder in young children. Our aim was to monitor the epidemiologic characteristics of the aforementioned viruses and to determine the laboratory and clinical characteristics of patients associated with these viruses. **Methods :** From December 2009 to November 2010, 685 stool specimens from patients hospitalized in Chung-Ang University Hospital were tested for aforementioned viruses by using multiplex PCR, and their medical record review was conducted retrospectively. **Results :** The overall rates of prevalence were 44.8%, and the prevalence for rotavirus, norovirus, enteric adenovirus, and astrovirus were 36.3%, 55%, 7%, and 1.7%, respectively. Mixed virus infections were detected in 37 (5.4%). The highest incidence was in March 2010 (18.9%), in the 13–24 months age group (38.1%) and among males (53.1%). In clinical aspect, chilling was most frequently observed with adenovirus (44.4%), and diarrhea was most frequently observed with rotavirus (93.7%). The incidence of diarrhea was higher in the rotavirus-infected group (93.7%) than in the norovirus-infected group, but leukocytosis (55%) and lymphocytosis (21%) were more common in the norovirus-infected group. **Conclusions :** Our finding showed prevalence and clinical differences of each gastroenteritis-associated viruses. For a better understanding, further epidemiologic and clinical investigations are essential.