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Abstract (poster session)

Rotavirus, norovirus and adenovirus gastroenteritis in hospitalised Children, Turkey

M. Altindis*, S. Yuksek, F. Alpay, R. Kalayci, Y. Yoldas (Afyonkarahisar, TR)

Objectives: This study aims to determine the prevalence and the distribution of Enteric viruses (especially rotavirus, norovirus and adenovirus) responsible for gastroenteritis in children. **Methods:** A epidemiological study on common diarrheal viruses was conducted in Afyon City, Turkey between January and November 2009. One hundred and fifty faecal samples from children under 6 years of age (mean age, $2.18 \pm SD 3.64$ years, range: 1 – 72 months) (negative for the presence of pathogenic bacteria by standard culture methods) were tested by ELISA (Ridascreen and Biomeriux) and RTPCR methods for detection of- Norovirus G1, G2. Stool samples positive for group A rotavirus by commercial enzyme immunoassay were subjected to reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction based genotyping of the outer capsid antigens, VP7 and VP4, determining G and P type specificities, respectively. **Results:** Norovirus were detected in 22.8% of 92 children (<6 years of age) and rotavirus and adenovirus were detected in 23.3 % and 6% of 150 hospitalized for gastroenteritis in Afyonkarahisar, Turkey, during 2009, respectively; predominant genotypes were GGIIb/Hilversum and GGII.4 Hunter for norovirus. The most common rotavirus strain was G2P[4] (n=16), followed by G9P[8] (n=7). Other strains were G1P[8] (n=3), G2P[8] (n=3), G1+2P[8] (n=2), G9P[4] (n=1), G2+9P[8] (n=1), G4+9P[6] (n=1), and G2P[4+8] (n=1). Of children with viral enteritis, 6.5% had a mixed norovirus-rotavirus infection. **Conclusions:** Rotavirus is still the most common cause for gastroenteritis. Norovirus might be a more frequent agent in patients with vomiting prominent. The severity of infection by norovirus was lower but an increase was observed with rotavirus co-infection.