

Enteric fever in Colombo, shifting from Typhoid to Paratyphoid A

Illapperuma S. C.*

Faculty of Medicine, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.

**scillapperuma@gmail.com*

Abstract

To describe the epidemiology of enteric fever in a private hospital in Colombo 03 municipality area of Colombo district from February 2011 - November 2012.

100 laboratory reports and patient records of blood culture confirmed enteric fever patients were collected. Bacterial aetiology, antibiotic sensitivity pattern, demographic data, clinical signs and symptoms and geographic location were recorded.

Of the 100 *Salmonella* isolates, 92% were *Salmonella* Paratyphi A and 8% were *Salmonella* Typhi. Only 48% had been notified to the health authorities.

Most patients were males (57%) and between 21-40 age group (53%). Highest number of Paratyphoid A cases were reported from Colombo 03, followed by Dehiwala, Moratuwa and Kolonnawa. A higher isolation rate was seen between August and November 2011.

Fever was the commonest presentation in both typhoid and paratyphoid fevers (100%) and other symptoms did not differ except that chills and rigors were more common in Paratyphoid. Clinical signs such as abdominal tenderness, abdominal distension, jaundice, hepatomegaly and splenomegaly were more common in typhoid patients.

Regarding antibiotic sensitivity, 73.75% and 25% ciprofloxacin resistance and 28.57% and 25% azithromycin resistance was seen in *S.Paratyphi* and *S.Typhi* respectively. 100% sensitivity was seen for amoxicillin, chloramphenicol, co-trimoxazole, co-amoxyclov, ceftriaxone and timentin in both *S.Typhi* and *S.Paratyphi A*.

This study indicates that Paratyphoid A has replaced Typhoid fever in Colombo. Notification of blood culture positive cases to the relevant health authorities needs to be improved. Antibiotic resistance to commonly used drugs is seen. Therefore treatment based on sensitivity testing is strongly recommended.