Diarrhoea and Associated Clinical Features in Different Pathotypes of Diarrheagenic E. coli Isolated in Children: A Case-Control Study in a Tertiary Care Hospital

Monalisa Mohanty, Preetam Kumar Kar, Biswabara Rout, Tapas Ranjan Behera

1Senior Resident, Department of Microbiology, AIIMS, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India.
2Assistant Professor, Department of Community Medicine, SCB Medical College, Cuttack, Odisha, India.
3Assistant Professor, Department of Physiology, SCB Medical College, Cuttack, Odisha, India.
4DOI: https://doi.org/10.24321/0019.5138.202165

INFO

Corresponding Author:
Tapas Ranjan Behera, Department of Community Medicine, SCB Medical College, Cuttack, Odisha, India.
E-mail Id: tapas4behera@gmail.com
Orcid Id: https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3934-6546

How to cite this article:
Mohanty M, Kar PK, Rout B, Behera TR. Diarrhoea and Associated Clinical Features in Different Pathotypes of Diarrheagenic E. coli Isolated in Children: A Case-Control Study in a Tertiary Care Hospital. J Commun Dis. 2021;53(3):250-258.

ABSTRACT

Background: Acute gastroenteritis remains to be a major health problem in children causing high morbidity and mortality. In India, diarrhoea is the third most common cause of death in children younger than 5 years of age, with an estimation of 300,000 deaths each year. Diarrheagenic Escherichia coli (DEC) being one of the important bacterial agents, the present hospital-based study was done to enlighten on the occurrence of different pathotypes and clinical features associated with DEC related diarrhoea.

Methods: The case-control study was carried out in SCB Medical College, Odisha from October 2014 to September 2016 on the childhood diarrhoea cases (≤ 14 years of age). Stool samples were collected and processed to isolate the causative bacterial agent by standard biochemical test, serotyping and multiplex PCR.

Results: 350 cases and 100 controls were included in the study. The different pathotypes of DEC were isolated significantly more in cases than control group (P value = 0.0205) with an isolation rate of 7.4% in cases. 12 (46.2%) of DEC were in 0-1 year age group followed by 1-5 year of age group i.e. 11 (42.3%) and least in 5-14 years of age group i.e. 3 (11.5%). The most common pathotype was Enterotoxigenic E. coli (ETEC) followed by Enteropathogenic E.coli (EPEC). Fever is the most common symptom associated with DEC diarrhoea; the other two common symptoms were watery diarrhoea and vomiting. Exclusive breastfeeding was the protective factor. Seasonal variation of DEC was found more among the cases in the rainy season.

Conclusion: Different pathotypes of DEC being associated commonly with childhood diarrhoea, the correct identification of various types of DEC along with the clinical knowledge is important to reduce the morbidity and mortality caused by it.

Keywords: DEC, Acute Gastroenteritis, Multiplex PCR, Exclusive Breastfeeding
Introduction

Acute gastroenteritis continues to be one of the major health issues in children all over the world especially in developing countries and is responsible for high morbidity and mortality among children under 5 years of age.\textsuperscript{1} Diarrheal diseases can cause infection in up to 2.5 billion people and are responsible for about 1.5 million deaths each year.\textsuperscript{2,4} In children < 5 years of age, 40% of the morbidity and 30% of the mortality are attributed to diarrheal disease.\textsuperscript{3,5} Diarrhoea is the second most common cause of under 5 mortality globally following respiratory illness.\textsuperscript{6} The incidence and aetiology of diarrhoea are influenced by a number of factors like climate, geographical area, time of the year, cultural and socio-economic status, poor water supply, hygienic standards. Besides these, the individual’s nutritional status, feeding habit, age and immunity play a special role.\textsuperscript{7} It acts as a major source of malnutrition and life-threatening complications.\textsuperscript{8,9} In India, diarrhoea is the third most common cause of death among children less than 5 years of age, with an estimate of 300,000 death each year.\textsuperscript{10} The three states Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Tamil Nadu together constitute the highest percentage of children suffering from diarrhoea in India.\textsuperscript{11} A broad range of microorganisms such as viruses particularly Rotavirus, parasites and bacteria are associated with diarrhoea in children.\textsuperscript{1,3,12} In India, Rotavirus attributes to about 11.37 million episodes of acute gastroenteritis (AGE) annually in children < 5 years of age.\textsuperscript{13} In 2011, it is estimated that rotavirus associated AGE caused 78,000 deaths among children in India and majority (75.6%) of them were among children less than 2 years.\textsuperscript{13} Two oral rotavirus vaccines, Rotarix (RV1; monovalent G1P;)\textsuperscript{14} GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals, Belgium) and RotaTeq (RV5; pentavalent G1, G2, G3, G4, P, Merck Vaccines, NJ, USA) have been commercially available in India since 2006 to prevent rotavirus associated AGE.\textsuperscript{14,15} In 2015, another indigenously developed vaccine named as the ROTAVAC vaccine (Bharat Biotech, India), containing the live 116E rotavirus strain (G9P),\textsuperscript{11} was introduced at a substantially lower price.\textsuperscript{13} In April 2016, the Government of India included the vaccine in the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) in 4 states (Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha) with the subsequent inclusion of 5 more additional states by September 2017 (Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Tripura, Tamil Nadu). With the implementation of this vaccine, there is a reduction in both morbidity and mortality in the paediatric age group due to Rotavirus associated AGE.\textsuperscript{16}

Among the bacterial agents, diarrheagenic \textit{Escherichia coli} are one of the most frequently detected pathogens worldwide.\textsuperscript{17,18} \textit{E. coli} is also the predominant non-pathogenic facultative anaerobic member of the human intestinal microflora and colonizes in the gastrointestinal tract of new-born within few hours just after birth and can be readily isolated from faecal samples.\textsuperscript{19} However, some \textit{E. coli} strains have developed the ability to cause diseases of gastrointestinal, urinary and central nervous system in the human host.\textsuperscript{20,21} Diarrheagenic \textit{Escherichia coli} (DEC) roughly accounts for 30-40% of acute episodes of diarrhoea in children < 5 years of age in developing countries\textsuperscript{22} and is also responsible for both sporadic cases and outbreaks of diarrhoea throughout the world.\textsuperscript{23} Diarrheagenic strains of \textit{E. coli} are divided into 6 main categories on the basis of distinct epidemiological and clinical features, specific virulence determinants and association with certain serotypes.\textsuperscript{24,25} These include enteropathogenic \textit{E. coli} (EPEC), enterotoxigenic \textit{E. coli} (ETEC), enteroinvasive \textit{E. coli} (EIEC), enterohaemorrhagic \textit{E. coli} (EHEC) or Shiga-toxin producing \textit{E. coli} (STE C), enteroinaggregative \textit{E. coli} (EAEC) and diffusely adherent \textit{E. coli} (DAEC).\textsuperscript{25}

Though different strains of DEC are responsible for a substantial proportion of childhood diarrhoea, due to lack of routine diagnostic procedure and paucity of epidemiological data lead to its misidentification.\textsuperscript{1} With the above background, the present hospital-based study is conducted to know the pathotypes of DEC diarrhoea and factors predisposing to the infection with DEC in children.

Materials and Methods

The study was a hospital-based prospective case-control study, with a duration of 2 years from October 2014 to September 2016. It was conducted in SCB medical college and hospital. Children less than 14 years of age with diarrhoea, characterised by stools with decreased consistency and increased volume because of imbalance of secretion and absorption of water and salts in the intestine who attended the OPD and were admitted to the indoor Paediatric department of SCB were included as cases.\textsuperscript{26} Samples from patients who received antibiotics before admission or during their hospital stay were excluded from the study. The control group included children who had not had diarrhoea in the preceding 2 weeks and they were also age-matched with that of case group children. Selection bias is overcome by taking controls from the same setting (same hospital) and by age matching. All cases admitted to the indoor paediatric ward are included. As many patients (children) are being referred here after receiving some first-hand treatment at other hospitals (which includes antibiotics), hence the children who have not received any antibiotic therapy were only included. Approval (IEC/IRB No: 418/18.2.17) for the work was taken from the Institutional Ethical Committee.

Children of the same age group are taken as controls from the same hospital having other diseases during the same time period to eliminate the confounding factor of age.
3 or more loose, liquid or watery stools or at least 1 bloody stool in a 24 hour period were taken as cases. Samples from patients who received antibiotics before admission or during their hospital stay were excluded. Children who had not had diarrhoea in the preceding 2 weeks were taken as control population and were age-matched. After fulfilling the inclusion and exclusion criteria, simple random sampling method was used to get the cases.

**Patient Work-up**

After the selection of cases, a detailed history was obtained and different demographic data such as age, sex, clinical presentations, length of hospital stay and antibiotic history were obtained from patients or from their guardians. Stool samples were collected in the universal container after getting consent and were processed for the identification of the etiological agent.

**Microbiological Work-up**

On the first day, wet mount was performed to screen for the presence of leucocytes, RBC, ova and cysts of parasites. The rest of the stool samples from both cases and controls were inoculated in suitable growth media to isolate and identify the bacterial isolates.27 A single pure colony was isolated from different selective media such as MacConkey agar, DCA agar and TCBS agar etc. after overnight incubation at 37 °C & grown and subsequently subjected to the standard biochemical and serological tests for the identification bacteria causing diarrhoea.27 The *E. coli* isolated from samples were subjected to serotyping methods (using Denka Seiken Co; Ltd., Tokyo, Japan antisera) and multiplex PCR for the identification of different pathotypes of DEC (Table 1).28

**Statistical Data Analysis**

The statistical analysis was done by using Chi-square table and SPSS 19 software. The p value of less than 0.05 was considered as significant. For all the statistical analyses, PCR was considered as gold standard method.

**Results**

Out of 350 cases, bacterial and parasitic cysts and ova are detected in 270 (77.1%) samples, of these bacterial isolates, 245 (70%) were *E. coli*, 3 (0.8%) *Vibrio cholerae* and 2 (0.6%) *Shigella* species. Among the parasitic pathogens, cysts of *Giardia lamblia* were detected in 10 (2.9%) and ova of *Ancylostoma duodenale* and *Ascaris lumbricoides* were detected in 6 (1.7%) and 4 (1.1%) respectively. Out of 100 controls *E. coli*. was isolated in 30 (30%) cases only (Table 2).

| S. No. | DEC | Gene | Sequence (5'-3') | Amplicon Size | Annealing Temperature (°C) |
|-------|-----|------|------------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| 1.    | ETEC | Est  | GCTAAAACCCAGTAG/AGGTCTTCAAAA | 147           | 57                        |
| 2.    | ETEC | Elt  | CACACGGAGCTCTCTAGTC | 508           | 57*                       |
| 3.    | EPEC | Eae  | CCGGAATCGGCACAAGCATAAGC | 881           | 57                        |
| 4.    | EPEC | bfpA | GGAAATCAGGATGATCCAG | 367           | 57                        |
| 5.    | EHEC | stx1 | CAACACTGGATGATCCAG | 350           | 57                        |
| 6.    | EHEC | Stx2 | ATCGGACTGTCACCTCGAG | 110           | 57                        |
| 7.    | EAEC | East | CACAGTATATGCGATGCATAA | 94            | 53                        |
| 8.    | EIEC | ipaH | CTGGGAAGAATGTGTCTGG | 933           | 55                        |
| 9.    | EIEC | vtrF | AGCTGCGAAGGTTGATCCTCGA | 618           | 55                        |
| 10.   | DAEC | daaE | GAACCTGCTGTTATGTTGGTGAATA | 542           | 55                        |
Of the 350 cases, 245 (70%) were *E. coli* were isolated, from which diarrheagenic *E. coli* were identified in 26 (7.4%) cases by one or more of the laboratory test methods (Phenotypic methods like serology and genotypic method like PCR). Similarly, in the control group (100), *E. coli* were isolated in 30 cases, where diarrheagenic *E. coli* was identified in one only. On comparison of the results between cases and control, the occurrence of DEC was found to be statistically significant in cases (p value = 0.0205) (Table 3).

Maximum number of DEC i.e. 12 (46.2%) were distributed in 0-1 year age group followed by 1-5 year of age group i.e. 11 (42.3%) and least in the 5-14 years of age group i.e. 3 (11.5%). Male and female distribution of DEC were 18 (69.2%) and 8 (30.8%), respectively (Table 4).

Out of 26 DEC from cases, ETEC was found to be highest in number i.e. 14 (53.8%) followed by EPEC and EHEC i.e. 10 (38.5%) and 2 (7.7%) respectively. No isolate was found to be EAEC, EIEC and DAEC pathotypes. From the control group, only one diarrheagenic strain was found to be ETEC type (Table 5).
The most common associated symptoms in cases with DEC was fever i.e. 20 (76.9%) followed by watery diarrhoea in 19 (73.1%) and vomiting in 18 (69.2%). EPEC pathotype was commonly associated with fever (9/10) and ETEC was associated with vomiting and watery diarrhoea i.e. 9/14 and 11/14 respectively. Maximum numbers of cases i.e. 14 (53.8%) with DEC were on a solid diet and the rest i.e. 12 (46.2%) were on a combination of formula feed and breastfeed. Diarrheagenic *E. coli* strains were not isolated from cases that were exclusively breastfed (Table 6).

### Table 6. Frequency of Common Associated Signs and Symptoms and Risk Factors with DEC Positive Cases

| C/F ETEC (14) | No (%) of Diarrheagenic *E. coli* Pathotype |
|---------------|------------------------------------------|
|               | EPEC (10) | EHEC (2) | EIEC | EAEC | DAEC |
| Vomiting      | 9        | 8        | 1    | -    | -    |
| Fever         | 10       | 9        | 1    | -    | -    |
| Abdominal pain| 5        | 5        | 2    | -    | -    |
| Type of diarrhoea | Watery | 11 | 7 | 1 | - | - |
|               | Mucoid | 2 | 3 | 0 | - | - |
| Level of dehydration | Severe | 10 | 5 | 0 | - | - |
|               | Some   | 3 | 2 | 1 | - | - |
|               | No     | 2 | 2 | 1 | - | - |
| Feeding habit | Exclusive breastfeeding (EB) | 0 | 0 | 0 | - | - |
|               | Breastfeeding + Formula fed (B, F) | 4 | 7 | 1 | - | - |
|               | Solid food (S) | 10 | 3 | 1 | - | - |

Diarrheagenic *E. coli* were more common i.e. 18 (69.2%) during the rainy season and least common i.e. 2 (7.7%) during the winter season (Table 7).

### Table 7. Seasonal Distribution of Isolated Diarrheagenic *E. coli*

| Season            | Cases with Diarrheagenic *E. coli* (N = 26) n (%) |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| July-October      | 18 (69.2)                                     |
| November-February | 2 (7.7)                                       |
| March-June        | 6 (23.1)                                      |

Diarrheagenic *E. coli* were more common i.e. 18 (69.2%) during the rainy season and least common i.e. 2 (7.7%) during the winter season (Table 7).

### Discussion

Diarrhoea is a global health problem, but is especially prevalent in developing countries due to poor environmental sanitation, inadequate water supplies, poverty and lack of health education.  

Out of 350 cases of diarrhoea in the present study, 26 (7.4%)...
cases were diagnosed to be associated with diarrheagenic *Escherichia coli* and 1 (1%) diarrheagenic *Escherichia coli* was isolated from the control group of 100. Our result is well correlated with the study of Chomvarin C, et al. who also reported an isolation rate of 7.9% of DEC from diarrheal cases. However, Dutta S, et al., Hegde A et al. and Allam A et al. reported a higher prevalence of DEC i.e. 11.8%, 26% and 24.4% in cases and 2.3%, 8% and 3.3% in controls respectively.  The results of the cases, when compared to control was found to be statistically significant (p value = 0.0205) and in concordance with other studies. This difference in isolation rate of diarrheagenic *E. coli* may be due to the fact that the prevalence of DEC varies around the world from region to region and even between countries.

In our study, diarrheagenic *E. coli* were more common in males i.e. 18 (69.2%) as compared to females (8, 30.8%) which is in accordance with the study previously done by others. The age distributions of diarrheagenic *E. coli* among the diarrheal children were observed varyingly in the three age groups in the present study. Maximum DEC pathotypes i.e. 12 (46.2%) were detected in the 0-1 year of age groups followed by 1-5 years of age group i.e. 11 (42.3%) and least i.e. 3 (11.5%) in 5-14 years of age group. The age distribution of different DEC pathotypes is similar to the study by Ifeanyi C, et al., who reported 51.6% of diarrheagenic *E. coli* belonged to the age group of 0-1 year and the rest 49.4% belonged to more than 1 year of age group. However, Dutta S, et al. in their study found that the maximum number of DEC i.e. 45.6% belonged to < 2 years of age followed by 5-14 years age group and 2-5 years of age group. The difference in the inclusion criteria of study population in different studies may contribute to the difference in the distribution of various pathotypes of DEC. Three pathotypes of DEC (ETEC, EPEC and EHEC) were detected in children with diarrhoea by multiplex PCR in the present study. The most prevalent pathotype of diarrheagenic *E. coli* isolated was ETEC (53.8%) which is similar to the result of the study done by Allam AA, et al. and Suganya D, et. al. who reported ETEC as the most common pathotype. The result of the present study differs from the studies done by Hegde A et al. Moshtagian F, et al., Dutta S, et al. who reported that EAEC (50%), EPEC (63.2%) and EAEC (48.7%) respectively as the commonest pathotype. In this study, we did not detect any EAEC, EIEC or DAEC strain from cases. In the control group, only 1 DEC was isolated which was identified as ETEC type. The variation in the detection rates of the different DEC pathotypes, reported in present and previously mentioned studies can be attributed to several factors like geographical locations, social status, dietary behaviour, housing, and quality of sanitation. The DEC positive diarrhoeal cases in the current study showed fever (76.9%) to be the commonest symptom followed by watery diarrhoea (73.1%) and vomiting (69.2%). Audu R et al. also observed fever as the commonest symptom (68%) followed by vomiting (60%) in cases with DEC. On comparison of different pathotypes with particular associated symptoms in our study, it was found that the EPEC pathotype was commonly associated with fever (9 out of 10) and vomiting and watery diarrhoea was commonly associated with ETEC type (9 out of 14 and 11 out of 14 respectively) which accounts for a severe degree of dehydration (10 out of 14). Dutta S, et al. reported the association of EPEC and ETEC type with vomiting, watery diarrhoea and severe dehydration. Out of the 2 EHEC isolates in our study, one was from a case, who had non-bloody stool. This occurrence further stresses on the fact that non-bloody diarrhoea does not rule out EHEC infection. Maximum number 14 (53.8%) of DEC were isolated from cases on solid food habit followed by 12 (46.2%) cases who were on a combination of formula feed and breastfeeding, which is similar to the study by Ifeanyi C, et al. who reported that DEC infection was highest in children fed with solid food (64.1%) followed by those on a combination of breast milk and formula feed (34.3%). No DEC was isolated from exclusively breastfed children in our study. It may be due to the fact that breastfeeding has been observed to protect the infant from the morbidity and mortality of diarrhoea in the first few months of life and when given exclusively, it offers the greatest protection.

This study showed diarrheagenic *E. coli* were more commonly i.e. 18 (69.2%) isolated in the rainy season followed by summer i.e. 6 (23.1%) and least i.e. 2 (7.7%) in winter. This result is similar to the study done by Samal SK, et al. and Faruque AS, et al. But the result differs from the study by Dutta S, et al. who reported that DEC-mediated diarrhoea is not specific to any season and is found throughout the year. Moyo JS, et al. in their study in Tanzania showed that 64.1% of DEC cases were isolated during the summer season. These variations in the isolation rate of DEC in different seasons reported by various authors may be due to the fact that environmental parameters such as temperature and humidity within a specific geographical region are the important factors associated with seasonal variations.

**Limitations of the Study**

It is a tertiary care hospital-based study, so at the time of admission, many of the patients had already received antibiotics which could have modified the underlying original symptoms, which is a limitation of our study. Another limitation of the present study is that some confounding factors like different parameters of nutritional level, Vit. A level and immunisation status could not be assessed/estimated because of limited resources.
If it were a community-based study, more samples from the symptomatic group could have been included in the study; which could have reflected the real prevalence of diarrheagenic *E. coli*.

**Conclusion**

This study concludes that proper knowledge of the aetiology of childhood diarrhoea could help in the initiation of correct management protocol and reduce the morbidity related to diarrhoea. It emphasises the implementation of proper history taking, collection of demographic data, data regarding dietary habits and inclusion of identification of diarrheagenic *E. coli* in routine diagnostic procedures, particularly in paediatric diarrhoeal cases as DEC are the most common bacterial agents associated with childhood diarrhoea. It also emphasises encouraging exclusive breastfeeding as it has proven to have a protective role in preventing DEC related diarrhoea in infants.

Research may be taken up in large community based geographical areas to corroborate these findings and preventive measures including a new vaccine against DEC may be the need of the hour.

**Source of Funding:** No extramural funding

**Conflict of Interest:** None

**References**

1. Saka HK, Dabo NT, Muhammad B, García-Soto S, Paternina Caicedo AJ, Patten SB, Patton GC, Pereira DM, Perico N, Piel FB, Polinder S, Popova S, Pournakel F, Quistberg DA, Remuzzi G, Rodriguez A, Rojas-Rueda D, Rothenbacher D, Rothstein DH, Sanabria J, Santos IS, Schwebel DC, Sepanlou SG, Shaheen A, Shiri R, Shiue I, Skirbekk V, Sliwa K, Sreeramareddy CT, Stein DJ, Steiner TJ, Stovner LJ, Sykes BL, Tabb KM, Terkawai AS, Thomson AJ, Thorne-Lyman AL, Tobin JA, Ukwaja KN, Vasankari T, Venkatasubramanian N, Vlassov VV, Vollset SE, Weiderpass E, Weintroub RG, Werdecker A, Wilkinson JD, Woldeyohannes SM, Wolfe CD, Yano Y, Yip P, Yonemoto N, Yoon SJ, Younis MZ, Yu C, El Sayed Zaki M, Naghavi M, Murray CJ, Vos T. Global and national burden of diseases and injuries among children and adolescents between 1990 and 2013: findings from the global burden of disease 2013 study. *JAMA Pediatr.* 2016;170:267-87. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

2. Lanata CF, Fischer-Walker CL, Olascoaga AC, Torres CX, Aryee MJ, Black RE; Child Health Epidemiology Reference Group of the World Health Organization and UNICEF. Global causes of diarrheal disease mortality in children <5 years of age: a systematic review. *PLoS One.* 2013;8:e72788. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

3. Parashar UB, Bree SE, Glass RI. The global burden of diarrhoeal disease in children. *Bull World Health Organ.* 2003;81(4):236. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

4. Kirk MD, Pires SM, Black RE, Caipo M, Crump JA, Develesschauwer B, Döpfer D, Fazil A, Fischer-Walker CL, Hald T, Hall AJ, Keddy KH, Lake RJ, Lanata CF, Torgerson PR, Havelaar AH, Angulo FJ. World Health Organization estimates of the global and regional disease burden of 22 foodborne bacterial, protozoal, and viral diseases, 2010: a data synthesis. *PLoS Med.* 2015;12:e1001921. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

5. Parashar UB, Bree SE, Glass RI. The global burden of diarrhoeal disease in children. *Bull World Health Organ.* 2003;81(4):236. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

6. Hien BT, Trang DT, Scheutz F, Cam PC, Melbok K, Dalsgaard A. Diarrheagenic Escherichia coli and other causes of childhood diarrhoea: a case–control study in children living in a wastewater-use area in Hanoi, Vietnam. *J Med Microbiol.* 2007;56(Pt 8):1086-96. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

7. Kirk MD, Pires SM, Black RE, Caipo M, Crump JA, Develesschauwer B, Döpfer D, Fazil A, Fischer-Walker CL, Hald T, Hall AJ, Keddy KH, Lake RJ, Lanata CF, Torgerson PR, Havelaar AH, Angulo FJ. World Health Organization estimates of the global and regional disease burden of 22 foodborne bacterial, protozoal, and viral diseases, 2010: a data synthesis. *PLoS Med.* 2015;12:e1001921. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

8. Kirk MD, Pires SM, Black RE, Caipo M, Crump JA, Develesschauwer B, Döpfer D, Fazil A, Fischer-Walker CL, Hald T, Hall AJ, Keddy KH, Lake RJ, Lanata CF, Torgerson PR, Havelaar AH, Angulo FJ. World Health Organization estimates of the global and regional disease burden of 22 foodborne bacterial, protozoal, and viral diseases, 2010: a data synthesis. *PLoS Med.* 2015;12:e1001921. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

9. Hien BT, Trang DT, Scheutz F, Cam PC, Melbok K, Dalsgaard A. Diarrheagenic Escherichia coli and other causes of childhood diarrhoea: a case–control study in children living in a wastewater-use area in Hanoi, Vietnam. *J Med Microbiol.* 2007;56(Pt 8):1086-96. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

10. Robins-Browne RM, Bordun AM, Tauschek M, Bennett-Wood VR, Russell J, Oppediano F, Lister NA, Bettelheim KA, Fairley CK, Sinclair MJ, Hellard ME. Escherichia coli and community-acquired gastroenteritis, Melbourne, Australia. *Emerg Infect Dis.* 2004;10:1797-805. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

11. Okeke NI. Diarrheagenic Escherichia coli in sub-Saharan
Africa: status, uncertainties and necessities. J Infect Dev Ctries. 2009;3(11):817-42. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

10. Lakshminarayanan S, Jayalakshmy R. Diarrheal diseases among children in India: Current scenario and future perspectives. J Nat Sci Biol Med. 2015 Jan-Jun; 6(1): 24–28. [Google Scholar]

11. Verma S, Kumar V, Singh P. Managing childhood diarrhoea at homes in India: an opportunity to reduce child morbidity and mortality. Infect Dis Health. 2016;21(4):176-83. [Google Scholar]

12. Keusch GT, Walker CF, Das JK, Horton S, Habte D. Diarrheal diseases. In: Black RE, Laxminarayan R, Temmerman M, Walker N, editors. Washington, DC: World Bank; 2016.

13. John J, Sarkar R, Muliyil JBN, Bhan MK, Kang G. Rotavirus gastroenteritis in India, 2011-2013: Revised estimates of disease burden and potential impact of vaccines. Vaccine. 2014;32S:A5-S. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

14. Bhandari N, Rongsen-Chandola T, Bavekar A, John J, Antony K, Taneja S, Goyal N, Kawade A, Kang G, Rathore SS, Juvekar S, Muliyil J, Arya A, Shaikh H, Abraham V, Vrati S, Proshan M, Kohberger R, Thiry G, Glass R, Greenberg HB, Curlin G, Mohan K, Harshvardhan GV, Prasad S, Rao TS, Boslego J, Bhan MK; India Rotavirus Vaccine Group. Efficacy of a monovalent human-bovine (116E) rotavirus vaccine in Indian infants: a randomised double blind placebo controlled trial. Lancet. 2014;383:2136-43. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

15. Kahn G, Fitzwater S, Tate J, Kang G, Ganguly N, Nair G, Steele D, Arora R, Chawla-Sarkar M, Parashar U, Santosham M. Epidemiology and prospects for prevention of rotavirus disease in India. Indian Pediatr. 2012;49:467-74. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

16. Clark A, Zandvoort KV, Flasche S, Sanderson C, Bines J, Tate J, Parashar U, Jit M. Efficacy of live oral rotavirus vaccines by duration of follow-up: a meta-regression of randomised controlled trials. Lancet Infect Dis. 2019;19(7):717-27. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

17. Al-Gallas N, Bahari O, Bourratbeen A, Hasen AB, Aissa RB. Etiology of acute diarrhea in children and adults in Tunis, Tunisia, with emphasis on diarrheagenic Escherichia coli; prevalence, phenotyping & molecular epidemiology. Am J Trop Med Hyg. 2007;77:571-82. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

18. Gomes TA, Rassi V, Mac Donald KL, Ramos SR, Trabuls LR, Vieira MA, Guth BE, Candeias JA, Irony C, Toledo MR, Blak PA. Enteropathgene associated with acute diarrheal disease in urban infants in Sao Paulo, Brazil. J Infect Dis. 1991;164:331-7. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

19. Kaper JB, Nataro JP, Mobley HL. Pathogenic Escherichia coli. Nat Rev Microbiol. 2004;2:123-40. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

20. Chandra M, Cheng P, Rondeau G, Porwollik S, McClelland M. A single step multiplex PCR for identification of six diarrheagenic E. coli pathotypes and Salmonella. Int J Med Microbiol. 2013;303:210-6. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

21. Rich C, Altijdja A, Sirot J, Joly B, Forrester C. Identification of human enterovirulent Escherichia coli strains by multiplex PCR. J Clin Lab Anal. 2001;15:100-3. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

22. Miliwebsky E, Schelotto F, Varela G, Luz D, Chinen I, Piazza RMF. Human diarrheal infections: diagnosis of diarrheagenic Escherichia coli pathotypes. In: Torres AG, editor. Escherichia coli in the Americas. Switzerland: Springer International Publishing; 2016. p.343-69. [Google Scholar]

23. Croxon MA, Law RJ, Scholz R, Keeney KM, Wlodarska M, Finlay BB. Recent advances in understanding enteric pathogenic Escherichia coli. Clin Microbiol Rev. 2013;26(4):822-80. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

24. Rajendran P, Ajampur SS, Chidambaram D, Chandrabose G, Thangaraj B, Sarkar R, Samuel P, Rajan DP, Kang G. Pathotypes of diarrheagenic Escherichia coli in children attending a tertiary care hospital in South India. Diagn Microbiol Infect Dis. 2010;68:117-22. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

25. Nataro JP, Kaper JB. Diarrheagenic Escherichia coli. Clin Microbiol. 1998;11:142-201. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

26. World Health Organization [Internet]. Diarrhoeal disease; 2017 [cited 2018 Dec 19]. Available from: https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/diarrhoeal-disease

27. World Health Organization. Manual for laboratory investigation of acute enteric infections. CDD/83.3. WHO, Geneva, Switzerland; 1987.

28. Purwar S, Bhattacharya D, Metgud SC, Kumar D, Chitambar SD, Roy S. A cross-sectional study on aetiology of diarrhoeal disease, India. Diagn Microbiol Infect Dis. 2010;68:375-8. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

29. Briend A, Hasan KZ, Aziz KM, Hoque BA. Are diarrhea control programmes likely to reduce childhood malnutrition? Observations from rural Bangladesh. Lancet. 1989;2(8658):319-22. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

30. Lakshminarayanan S, Jayalakshmy R. Diarrhoeal diseases among children in India: current scenario and future perspectives. J Nat Sci Biol Med. 2015;6(1):24-8. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

31. Scallan E, Hoekstra RM, Angulo FJ, Tauxe RV, Widdowson M, Roy SL, Griffin PM. Foodborne Illness Acquired in the United States-Major Pathogens. Emerging Infectious Diseases. 2011;17(1):7-15. https://doi.org/10.3201/ eid1701.p11101.
32. Dhanashree BS, Roy S, Sunaifa M. Prevalence of Enteropathogenic Escherichia coli (EPEC) in adult diarrhea cases and their antibiotic susceptibility pattern. Bri Microb Res J. 2015;5:560-66. [Google Scholar]

33. Nguyen TV, Van LV, Huy CL, Gia KN, Weintraub A. Detection and characterization of diarrheagenic Escherichia coli from Young Children in Hanoi, Vietnam. J Clin Microbiol. 2005;43(2):755-60. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

34. Dutta S, Guin S, Ghosh S, Pazhani GP, Rajendran K, Bhattacharya MK, Takeda Y, Nair GB, Ramamurthy T. Trends in the prevalence of diarrheagenic Escherichia coli among hospitalized diarrheal patients in Kolkata, India. PLoS One. 2013;8(2):e56068. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

35. Hegde A, Ballal M, Shenoy S. Detection of diarrheagenic Escherichia coli by multiplex PCR. Indian J Med Microbiol. 2012;30(3):279-84. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

36. Chomvarin C, Ratchrachenchai OA, Chantarasuk Y, Srigulbutr S, Chaicumpar K, Namwat W, Kotimanusvanij D. Characterization of diarrheagenic Escherichia coli isolated from food in Khon Kaen, Thailand. Southeast Asian J Trop Med Public Health. 2005;36(4):931-9. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]

37. Allam AA, Amer A, Fahmy K, Siam AG. Rapid diagnosis and characterization of diarrheagenic Escherichia coli in Egyptian children using multiplex PCR. Egyptian J Med Microbiol. 2006;15(3):523-30. [Google Scholar]

38. Gautam K, Pokhrel BM, Shrestha CD, Bhatia DR. Prevalence of diarrheagenic E. coli (DEC) determined by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) in different tertiary care hospitals in Nepal. JSM Microbiol. 2015;3:1021-7.

39. Aly MEA, Essam TM, Siam AG. Rapid diagnosis and characterization of diarrheagenic Escherichia coli in Egyptian children using multiplex PCR. Egyptian J Med Microbiol. 2006;15(3):523-30. [Google Scholar]

40. Moshtagian F, Alipour M, Yahyapour Y. Prevalence of Escherichia coli pathotypes among children with diarrhea in Babol, Northern Iran. Int J Enteric Pathog. 2016;4(3): e36326. [Google Scholar]