



Clinicopathogenic studies of acute diarrhea in children

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Author contributions: All authors contributed equally to the work.

Original title: *China National Journal of New Gastroenterology* (1995-1997)
renamed *World Journal of Gastroenterology* (1998-)

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Received: October 31, 1996
Revised: December 22, 1996
Accepted: January 30, 1997
Published online: September 15, 1997

Abstract

AIM: To identify etiologic pathogens of acute diarrhea in children
and to determine the diagnostic value of stool pH.

METHODS: From May 1988 to April 1992, 368 children with acute
diarrhea were studied. Fresh stools were routinely examined, and
stool pH was tested with pH paper. Samples were placed in Cary-

Blair culture medium and were sent to the lab for bacterial isolation
and identification. Rotavirus was identified in the supernatant by
ELISA.

RESULTS: Thirty-one pathogens and 385 bacterial strains were
found in the 368 samples, with a detection rate of 67.7%, including
37.8% of mixed infections. Among the bacteria families, vibrionaceae
was the most common (39.7%), and among bacteria genera,
aeromonas was the most common (26.8%). In bacterial diarrhea,
stool pH tended to be basic, while in viral diarrhea it tended to be
acidic.

CONCLUSION: There are 31 pathogens for children's acute diarrhea
in this area. It is quite difficult to make an etiologic diagnosis only by
clinical signs. However, stool pH is of some value for early disease
diagnosis.

Key words: Diarrhea/etiology; Acute diseases; Diarrhea/diagnosis

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Cai LM, Zhang C, Chen H, Jiang WP, Mao WX. Clinicopathogenic studies of
acute diarrhea in children. *World J Gastroenterol* 1997; 3(3): 162 Available
from: URL: <http://www.wjgnet.com/1007-9327/full/v3/i3/162.htm> DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3748/wjg.v3.i3.162>

S- Editor: Filipodia L- Editor: Jennifer E- Editor: Hu S



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ISSN 1007-9327

