

**CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS OF PATIENTS ADMITTED
WITH ACUTE DIARRHEA
AT SAMUT SAKHON PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL:
A PROSPECTIVE STUDY**

NGUYEN KIEU UYEN

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NGUYEN KIEU UYEN 4538031 TMCT/M

M.C.T.M.

THEMATIC PAPER ADVISORS: SOMBAT TREEPRASERTSUK, DIP. THAI BOARD OF INTERNAL MEDICINE, YUPAPORN WATTANAGOON, DIP. THAI BOARD OF INTERNAL MEDICINE, VARUNEE DESAKORN, M.Sc. (MICROBIOLOGY & IMMUNOLOGY), NOPPORN ANUKULKARNKUSOL, DIP. THAI BOARD OF INTERNAL MEDICINE.

ABSTRACT

A cross-sectional prospective study was conducted at Samut Sakhon Provincial Hospital among admitted patients from November 2002 to January 2003.

Our studied patients included 100 admitted patients with acute diarrhea, in which 55% were adults and 45% were children during the study period. The results showed that the proportion of bacterial agents isolated from stool cultures were 23%; 15% in adults and 8% in children. Most common bacterial causes were *Salmonella* spp. (10%), *Vibrio* spp. (9%), mixed infection between *Salmonella* spp. and other agents (3%) and *Plesiomonas shigelloides* (1%).

Over 90% of the patients came to the hospital with watery mixed mucous diarrhea, other symptoms such as vomiting, nausea, abdominal cramps, fever, tenesmus and chills accounted for 75%, 68%, 57%, 44%, 18%, 16%, respectively. Most patients had mild to moderate dehydration. Laboratory investigations were within normal limits in most of the patients except for white blood cells count which were higher in children. Stool simple smears were done in 78 patients which showed the presence of red blood cells or white blood cells in 45 patients (21 adults and 24 children). Fecal red blood cells or white blood cells were found in 12 cases of the stool culture positive group, but more commonly found in the stool culture negative group (33 cases). Clinical signs and symptoms were not associate with the stool culture results.

Antibiotic susceptibility tests were done for 19 bacterial agents isolated from the stool culture positive group. Norfloxacin was still effective for all bacterial causes identified in our study.

KEY WORDS: ACUTE DIARRHEA / CLINICAL / STOOL CULTURE