

PREVALENCE OF ENTERIC PATHOGENS IN ADULT TRAVELERS AND INDIGENOUS POPULATION WITH DIARRHEA IN THAILAND (POSTER)

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Background: Diarrheal disease continues to be the most frequent health problem for travelers who visit developing region. The responsible pathogens and response to chemotherapy are highly area specific. In addition, pathogen profile and severity of illness is usually different from indigenous population due to prior exposure and immunity. In this study we enrolled adult travelers and Thai with acute diarrhea and asymptomatic controls to describe the pathogen prevalence and drug susceptibility pattern.

Methods: Stools were collected from adult travelers and Thai with acute diarrhea and controls. Enteric pathogens (bacteria, virus and parasite) were identified by standard method and EIA test. Drug susceptibility testing was performed by disk diffusion or MIC.

Results: 207 travelers and 178 Thai and the same number of controls were included. Most common pathogens isolated from travelers with diarrhea were *V.parahemolyticus* (15%), *Campylobacter* (14%), *Salmonella* (13%) and ETEC (8%). In Thai adults with diarrhea *Salmonella* (15%), *Plesiomonas* (12%), *V.parahemolyticus* (11%) and ETEC (7%) were commonly identified. Overall isolation rate of pathogens in travelers was significantly higher than in the Thai (53% VS 42%) as well as *Campylobacter* isolation rate (14% VS 1%). Asymptomatic carrier rate of pathogens was relatively low (<5%) except for *Salmonella*. Ciprofloxacin is consistently effective to most pathogens excluding *Campylobacter* of which resistance was found in >80%. *Campylobacter* is uniformly sensitive to azithromycin.

Conclusion: This study indicates monitoring of etiologic agent and drug susceptibility profile is essential for effective treatment and vaccine development strategies.

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