

PREVALENCE OF ROTAVIRUS IN CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS ATTENDING PANDYA MEMMORIAL HOSPITAL, MOMBASA.

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Background: Rotavirus is the most common cause of diarrhea in children. This study was carried out to determine the prevalence of rotavirus in relation to age and sex and to determine the association of diarrhea with rotavirus in children under 5 years.

Methods: A retrospective study was carried out on children under 5 years attending Pandya Memorial Hospital between March and July, 2017. Rotavirus antigen detection in stool was done using OnSite Rota/Adeno Ag Rapid Test- Cassette (CTK BIOTECH™). Data was entered in Microsoft excel for analysis. Chi square test was used to analyze categorical variables. Data presentation was done using graphs, tables and pie charts. A p-value less than 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Results: Data for Seventy seven (77) children were analyzed in this study. The age range was from 0 – 59months. Males were 40 (51%) while females were 37(49%). A total of 12 cases returned were positive test for rotavirus representing 15.6% of the total. The age group with the highest number of positive cases was the 6-11 months at 33%. Females (58%) were marginally more likely to return a positive rotavirus test than males (42%). In all cases presenting diarrhea 16% were positive for rotavirus antigen.

Conclusion: Rotavirus occurred in 15.6% of the assayed individuals. This diarrheal condition causes a substantial morbidity in the population. We recommended that health workers should consider rotavirus assay in diarrheal cases when bacterial and parasitic agents' assays all show negative results.