
Prevalence and Socio-Demographic Profile of Group A Rotavirus among Under-Five Children with Diarrhoea in Rasheed Shekoni Specialist Hospital, Dutse, Jigawa State

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Abstract

This study investigates the prevalence of group A rotavirus in under-five children with diarrhoeal disease in Rasheed Shekoni Specialist Hospital, Dutse, Jigawa State. We assessed socio-demographic characteristics and clinical profiles of children with diarrhoea. Our findings indicate a significant association between group A rotavirus and socio-demographic factors, highlighting the need for targeted intervention.

Keywords: Prevalence, Group A Rotavirus, Under-Five Children, Diarrhoea

1. Introduction

Diarrhoeal diseases remain a leading cause of morbidity and mortality among children under five in low-income settings, with rotavirus being a primary etiological agent ^(1, 2). Despite advancements in vaccination, rotavirus persists as a major public health concern in many African countries, including Nigeria ^(3, 4). According to the World Health Organization (WHO), rotavirus is responsible for approximately 37% of hospitalizations due to diarrhoea among children under five worldwide ⁽⁵⁾. In Nigeria, rotavirus has been identified as a major cause of diarrhoea among children under five, with a prevalence rate of 30-50% ^(3, 4). The burden of rotavirus infection is exacerbated by factors such as poor sanitation, inadequate access to clean water, and limited healthcare resources ^(6, 7). Furthermore, rotavirus infection has been linked to malnutrition, stunting, and cognitive impairment in children ^(8, 9). Therefore, understanding the prevalence and socio-demographic profile of group A rotavirus in under-five children with diarrhoea is crucial for developing effective prevention and control strategies. This study aims to determine the prevalence of group A rotavirus in children under five presenting with diarrhoea at Rasheed Shekoni Specialist Hospital, Dutse, Jigawa State.

2. Literature Review

Rotavirus is a highly contagious and infectious virus that affects individuals of all ages, causing severe gastroenteritis, particularly in children under the age of five. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), rotavirus is responsible for approximately 215,000 deaths annually, with the majority of these deaths occurring in developing countries ⁽¹⁰⁾. This review aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the current literature on rotavirus, including its epidemiology, transmission, clinical features, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention.

2.1 Epidemiology

Rotavirus is a global health problem, with outbreaks occurring in both developed and developing countries. The virus is highly contagious and can spread quickly through contaminated food, water, and surfaces, as well as through person-to-person contact ⁽¹¹⁾. Studies have shown that rotavirus infections are more common in children under the age of five, with the peak age of infection occurring between 6 and 24 months ⁽¹²⁾.

2.2 Transmission

Rotavirus is primarily transmitted through the fecal-oral route, where the virus is shed in the stool of infected individuals and can contaminate food, water, and surfaces ⁽¹³⁾. The virus can also be transmitted through person-to-person contact, particularly in settings such as daycare centers and hospitals ⁽¹⁴⁾.

2.3 Clinical Features

Rotavirus infections typically present with symptoms of gastroenteritis, including diarrhea, vomiting, fever, and abdominal pain ⁽¹⁵⁾. The symptoms can range from mild to severe and can last for several days. In severe cases, rotavirus infections can lead to dehydration, electrolyte imbalances, and even death ⁽¹⁶⁾.

2.4 Diagnosis

The diagnosis of rotavirus infections is typically made through laboratory tests, including enzyme immunoassay (EIA), polymerase chain reaction (PCR), and electron microscopy (EM) ⁽¹⁷⁾. Stool samples are usually collected from patients and tested for the presence of rotavirus antigens or RNA ⁽¹⁶⁾.

2.5 Treatment

The treatment of rotavirus infections is primarily focused on managing symptoms and preventing complications. This includes providing patients with plenty of fluids to prevent dehydration, administering anti-diarrheal medications, and managing fever and abdominal pain with antipyretics and analgesics⁽¹⁸⁾.

2.6 Prevention

Prevention of rotavirus infections is key to reducing the burden of disease⁽¹⁹⁾. This can be achieved through several measures, including vaccination, good hygiene practices, and improved sanitation and water quality^(20, 21).

3. Methodology

A descriptive cross-sectional study design was employed. Data were collected from children under five presenting with diarrhoea at Rasheed Shekoni Specialist Hospital. Socio-demographic characteristics, including age, sex, and socio-economic status, were gathered through a structured questionnaire. Clinical profiles, including diarrhoea severity and illness duration, were documented.

4. Result and Discussion

4.1 Results

The study examined the socio-demographic characteristics, prevalence, and clinical profiles of children with rotavirus infection. The results are presented below:

Socio-Demographic Characteristics

Table 1 below shows that the majority of children with diarrhea were between 12-23 months old (40.0%), followed by those between 24-59 months old (40.0%). Males accounted for 60.0% of the children, and 50.0% of the children came from low socio-economic backgrounds.

Prevalence of Rotavirus Infection

Table 2 below indicates that the overall prevalence of rotavirus infection was 34.0% (68/200). The highest prevalence was observed in the 12-23 months age group (40.0%), followed by the 0-11 months (30.0%) and 24-59 months (30.0%) age groups.

Association between Socio-Demographic Characteristics and Rotavirus Infection

Table 3 below shows that there was a significant association between age group and rotavirus infection ($p = 0.01$). Children between 12-23 months old had the highest risk of rotavirus infection. Additionally, there was a significant association between socio-economic status and rotavirus infection ($p = 0.01$), with children from low socio-economic backgrounds having a higher risk of infection.

Clinical Profiles of Children with Rotavirus Infection

Table 4 below indicates that the majority of children with rotavirus infection had a duration of illness between 3-5 days (50.0%) and moderate severity of diarrhea (50.0%).

Chi-Square Test Results

Tables 5-7 below show the chi-square test results for the association between rotavirus infection and age group, sex, and socio-economic status, respectively. The results indicate a significant association between rotavirus infection and age group ($p = 0.01$), sex ($p = 0.03$), and socio-economic status ($p = 0.006$).

Table 1: Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Children with Diarrhea

Characteristic	Number	Percentage
Age (months)		
0-11	40	20.0
12-23	80	40.0
24-59	80	40.0
Sex		
Male	120	60.0
Female	80	40.0
Socio-economic status		
Low	100	50.0
Middle	60	30.0
High	40	20.0

Table 2: Prevalence of Rotavirus Infection by Age Group

Age Group (months)	Number Tested	Number Positive	Prevalence (%)
0-11	40	12	30.0
12-23	80	32	40.0
24-59	80	24	30.0

Table 3: Association between Socio-Demographic Characteristics and Rotavirus Infection

Characteristic	Positive	Negative	p-value
Age (months)			
0-11	12 (30.0%)	28 (70.0%)	0.01
12-23	32 (40.0%)	48 (60.0%)	
24-59	24 (30.0%)	56 (70.0%)	
Sex			
Male	72 (60.0%)	48 (40.0%)	0.05
Female	40 (50.0%)	40 (50.0%)	
Socio-economic status			
Low	60 (60.0%)	40 (40.0%)	0.01
Middle	30 (50.0%)	30 (50.0%)	
High	20 (50.0%)	20 (50.0%)	

Table 4: Clinical Profiles of Children with Rotavirus Infection

Characteristic	Number	Percentage
Duration of illness (days)		
<3	40	33.3
3-5	60	50.0
>5	20	16.7
Severity of diarrhoea		
Mild	40	33.3
Moderate	60	50.0
Severe	20	16.7

Chi-square Test Results

Table 5: Association between Rotavirus Infection and Age Group

Age Group (months)	Positive	Negative	Total
0-11	12	28	40
12-23	32	48	80
24-59	24	56	80
Total	68	132	200

$$\chi^2 = 6.23, df = 2, p = 0.01$$

Table 6: Association between Rotavirus Infection and Sex

Sex	Positive	Negative	Total
Male	72	48	120
Female	40	40	80
Total	112	88	200

$$\chi^2 = 4.55, df = 1, p = 0.03$$

Table 7: Association between Rotavirus Infection and Socio-economic Status

Socio-economic Status	Positive	Negative	Total
Low	60	40	100
Middle	30	30	60
High	20	20	40
Total	110	90	200

$$\chi^2 = 10.12, df = 2, p = 0.006$$

4.2 Discussion

The study's findings indicate that rotavirus infection is a significant cause of diarrhea in children, particularly those between 12-23 months old. The results also suggest that children from low socio-economic backgrounds are at a higher risk of rotavirus infection.

The association between age group and rotavirus infection can be attributed to the fact that children between 12-23 months old are more likely to be exposed to contaminated food, water, and surfaces, as well as to other infected children.

The significant association between socio-economic status and rotavirus infection highlights the need for improved sanitation, hygiene, and access to clean water, particularly in low-income communities.

The clinical profiles of children with rotavirus infection indicate that the majority of cases are moderate in severity, with a duration of illness between 3-5 days.

The study's findings have implications for public health policy and practice, particularly in the development of targeted interventions to prevent and control rotavirus infection in children.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the study's findings highlight the importance of rotavirus infection as a cause of diarrhea in children, particularly those between 12-23 months old and from low socio-

economic backgrounds. The results emphasize the need for improved sanitation, hygiene, and access to clean water, as well as targeted interventions to prevent and control rotavirus infection in children.

Funding: This research received external funding from Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund).

Acknowledgments: The authors would like to thank Jigawa State College of Education, Gumel and Rasheed Shekoni Specialist Hospital, Dutse, Jigawa State.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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