

To the Editor

ABOUT SALMONELLA GASTROENTERITIS

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I have read with interest Dr. Akan et al.'s paper entitled "Antibiotic susceptibilities....." which was published in the January-March 1997 issue of the Journal (1997; 39: 7-11).

Most of the Salmonella serotypes (289 of 309) were isolated from children with gastroenteritis. Since antibiotics are generally not recommended for salmonella gastroenteritis, as mentioned by the authors, with the exception of prematures, neonates, and malnourished and immunocompromised patients, why was antibiotic resistance studied in this form of the disease? Would it not give the impression to the practitioner that such studies are required? Since this study was done, may I ask the percentage of multi-resistance among the study group?

Salmonella typhi was isolated in 20 patients according to text but tabulated as 21 in Table II and III. I believe it needs clarification.

Would the authors agree with my conclusion that chloramphenicol (because of its effectiveness and cost) is still the drug of choice for enteric fever (without looking for antibiotic resistance)?

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