

S U M M A R Y

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Gastroenteritis is a wide spread disease, it is one of the major causes of morbidity and mortality in Egypt and other developing countries. Enteritis appear among the ten leading causes of death for age up to two years.

Gastroenteritis was studied in this work from the different aspects ; as regards age, sex, locality, type of feeding, wheather breast, artificial, or combined and weaned group.

We studied 400 cases of different age & sex. 229 cases of them (57.25%) from the rural area., & 171 cases (42.75%) from urban area. They were 252 males (63%) & 148 females (37%), their age varied up to two years.

Stool samples or rectal swabs were examined to detect the most common bacterial species involved in the pathogenesis of gastro-enteritis. Pathogenic organisms were isolated from 361 (91.25%), cases only while 39 cases giving no growth , (9.75%). The isolated pathogens were E. coli from 153 cases (38.25%), shigella from 56 cases (14%), Klesiella from 45 cases (11.25%), Proteus from 43 cases (10.75%), staph. aureus from 21 cases (5.25%), Salmonella 12 cases (3%), Ps. pyocy-
anaeus from 15 cases (3.75%), Campylobacter (5 cases , 1.25%).
& Candida 11 cases (2.75%).

The incidence of gastroenteritis is more in the rural area than urban area., also the incidence in male was more than females.

Infection was predominant in infants above 6 months of age. Enteropathogenic E. coli was the most frequent cause of diarrhea and it was more common during the first year of age,. below age of 6 months neither Shigella, Klebsiella, Salmonella and campylobacter were encountered.

According to seasonal variation it was noted that E. coli, Shigella, Proteus, Klebsiella mostly occurred in the hot season while staphylococcus, Candida mostly occurred in the cold weather.

The significance of seasonality in diarrhea cannot be ignored as it is one of the factors determining rural poverty.

According to the type of feeding whether breast, artificial feeding, combined feeding, weaned group were examined 47 cases breast fed ones (11.7%), & 105 cases (artificially fed 26.25%) & combined feeding 126 cases (31.5%), where weaned group were 122 with percentage 30.5% it is clear that the high incidence was in the last three groups as Bottle fed infants.