INFECTIOUS DISEASES

TYPHOID FEVER - CURRENT SCENARIO

***Surendranath M**

Abstract: *Typhoid fever is caused by a highly virulent organism Salmonella enterica serovar Typhi with a case fatality rate of 1% - 4%. In Indian subcontinent, incidence of typhoid fever is estimated to be more than 60 lakh cases per year. In many countries 27% of all cases occur in the age group of 0-4 years. Humans are the only known reservoir of S.typhi and transmission is through fecal-oral route. Though the blood culture done in the first week of illness is the gold standard for diagnosis, the sensitivity of blood culture is only 50%. Blood Widal test has poor positive predictive value but high negative preditive value. Multi drug resistant typhoid is reported in India while extremely drug resistant typhoid is reported in Pakistan since last few years. Recent reports in India suggest the susceptibility of S.typhi to first line of drugs and 100% to ceftriaxone. Improved sanitation, protected water supply, rational use of antibiotics and immunization with typhoid conjugate vaccine will reduce the disease burden.*

Keywords: *Salmonella enterica serovar Typhi, Enteric fever, Anti microbial resistance, Typhoid conjugate vaccine.*

* HOD, Department of Pediatrics,
Vijay Marie Hospital, Hyderabad.
email: drmsurendra@gmail.com

Points to Remember

- ***Typhoid fever continuous to be an important public health issue in India with many reports of incidence of MDR typhoid.***
- ***Though the blood culture is the gold standard in the diagnosis of typhoid, positive blood culture rates are low.***
- ***Blood Widal test has high negative predictive value.***
- ***Improving sanitation, hygiene and vaccination with typhoid conjugate vaccine may reduce the disease burden.***

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