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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

- ¹ Human parainfluenza virus surveillance in pediatric
- patients with lower respiratory tract infections: a
- $_{\scriptscriptstyle 4}$ special view of parainfluenza type 4 $^{\scriptscriptstyle
 m phi}$

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11	KEYWORDS
12	Human parainfluenza
13	virus;
14	Respiratory virus;
15	Pediatric patients;
16	Acute respiratory
17	illness;
18	Human respirovirus 4
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Abstract

Objective: Characterize the role of human parainfluenza virus and its clinical features in Brazilian children under 2 years of age presenting with acute lower respiratory tract infections. *Methods:* Real-time assays were used to identify strains of human parainfluenza virus and other common respiratory viruses in nasopharyngeal aspirates. One thousand and two children presenting with acute lower respiratory tract illnesses were enrolled from February 2008 to August 2010.

Results: One hundred and four (10.4%) patients were human parainfluenza virus positive, of whom 60 (57.7%) were positive for human parainfluenza virus-3, 30 (28.8%) for human parainfluenza virus-4, 12 (11.5%) for human parainfluenza virus-1, and two (1.9%) for human parainfluenza virus-2. Seven (6.7%) patients had more than one strain of human parainfluenza virus detected. The most frequent symptoms were cough and fever, similar to other viral respiratory infections. Clinical manifestations did not differ significantly between human parainfluenza virus-1, -2, -3, and -4 infections. Human parainfluenza virus-1, -3, and -4 were present in the population studied throughout the three years of surveillance, with human parainfluenza virus-3 being the predominant type identified in the first two years.

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PALAVRAS-CHAVE

Vírus respiratório;

Doença respiratória

Respirovírus humano

humana;

Pacientes

aguda;

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pediátricos;

Vírus da parainfluenza

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Conclusion: Human parainfluenza viruses contribute substantially to pediatric acute respiratory illness (ARI) in Brazil, with nearly 30% of this contribution attributable to human parainfluenza virus-4.

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Vigilância do vírus da parainfluenza humana em pacientes pediátricos com infecções do trato respiratório inferior: uma visão especial da parainfluenza tipo 4

Resumo

Objetivo: Caracterizar o papel do VPH-4 e suas características clínicas em crianças brasileiras com menos de 2 anos de idade com infecções agudas do trato respiratório inferior.

Métodos: Ensaios em tempo real foram utilizados para identificar tipos de VPH e outros vírus respiratórios comuns em aspirados nasofaríngeos. Mil e duas crianças com doença aguda do trato respiratório inferior foram inscritas para participar de fevereiro de 2008 a agosto de 2010.

Resultados: 104 (10,4%) pacientes eram VPH positivos, dos quais 60 (57,7%) eram positivos para VPH-3, 30 (28,8%) para VPH-4, 12 (11,5%) para VPH-1 e dois (1,9%) para VPH-2. Sete (6,7%) pacientes apresentaram mais de um tipo de VPH detectado. Os sintomas mais frequentes foram tosse e febre, semelhantes a outras infecções respiratórias virais. As manifestações clínicas não diferiram de forma significativa entre as infecções por VPH-1, -2, -3 e -4. Os VPH-1, -3 e -4 estavam presentes na população estudada ao longo dos três anos de vigilância, e o VPH-3 foi o tipo predominante identificado nos primeiros dois anos.

Conclusão: Os VPHs contribuem substancialmente para a DRA pediátrica no Brasil com quase 30% dessa contribuição atribuível ao VPH-4.

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53 Introduction

Viruses are the predominant cause of acute respiratory ill-54 ness (ARI) worldwide, and are responsible for substantial 55 morbidity and mortality in children between 1 and 5 years of 56 age. Human parainfluenza viruses (HPIVs) account for a sig-57 nificant proportion of viral ARIs in children, representing the 58 second most common cause of upper and lower respiratory 59 60 tract infections, just after human respiratory syncytial virus 61 (HRSV).¹ The four HPIV serotypes, HPIV-1, -2, -3 and -4, and two subtypes, -4a and -4b, are estimated to cause up to 10% 62 of childhood ARIs.² HPIV1 and HPIV2 are the primary cause 63 of croup in children aged 6-48 mons; HPIV3, and to a lesser 64 extent HPIV1, are more often associated with bronchioli-65 tis and pneumonia in children under 1 year. HPIVs also cause 66 severe disease, including pneumonia and death in transplant 67 recipients, as well as nosocomial infections and outbreaks, 68 similar to HRSV and influenza virus.³ 69

Little is known about the epidemiology and disease burden of HPIVs in the pediatric populations of Latin America, especially in Brazil.^{1,4–6} There are even less studies concerning HPIV-4 infection in America since few laboratories provide specific diagnoses of HPIV-4. Because of its apparently low prevalence and its difficulty of growth in cell culture.⁷

To better characterize the role of HPIV-4 and its clinical features in children under 2 years of age with ARI, real time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (rRT-PCR) analyses were used to identify four strains of HPIV and other common respiratory viruses in nasopharyngeal aspirates.

Methods

The research ethics committee of Institute Biomedical Science of the University of São Paulo approved the study. From March 2008 to August 2010, nasopharyngeal aspirate samples were collected from patients under 2 years of age with ARI, attended to or hospitalized at the Santa Casa de Misericordia Hospital (São Paulo, Brazil), after written consent was obtained from the children's parents. The samples were placed in a viral transport tube and held up to 48 h at 4 °C. The samples were processed in a biosafety level 2 laboratory at the Institute of Biomedical Science, University of São Paulo. Total nucleic acids were automatically extracted from 300 μ L of fresh specimen and eluted in 110 μ L of RNase-free elution buffer using NucliSENS easyMAG (bioMérieux-Brazil) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Nucleic acids were kept frozen at -70°C until use. A multiple singleplex rRT-PCR assay panel was used to detect and identify HPIVs (types 1, 2, 3, and 4)⁸ and other human respiratory viruses, including respiratory syncytial virus, human metapneumovirus, adenovirus, and influenza viruses A and B.⁹⁻¹¹ The statistical analyses was conducted with Statgraphics Centurion XV software; the chi-squared test for comparison of proportions was used for each symptom to verify the proportion of patients presenting the symptom in the serotypes analyzed. It also generated an analysis of means (ANOM)

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