

## PREVALENCE OF NOROVIRUS AND ROTAVIRUS IN CHILDREN WITH ACUTE GASTROENTERITIS

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Gastroenteritis is one of the most common diseases affecting children and rotavirus is the major etiological agent worldwide. Noroviruses are second only to rotaviruses as causative agents of acute gastroenteritis in children. The aim of this study was to determine the prevalence and clinical features of associated gastroenteritis among hospitalized children. Overall 326 stool samples were collected from hospitalized pediatric patients with a diagnosis of acute gastroenteritis. We analyzed clinical features, hospitalization course of the patients and laboratory data. Samples were tested by ELISA antigen test for Rotavirus and Real time PCR for Norovirus. Patients with bloody or bacterial diarrhea were excluded from the study. Norovirus was the second most frequent pathogen

after rotavirus, being detected in 13.8 % of the 326 enrolled children and in 10.3% of them as a single causative agent. Rotavirus was detected in 28.5% of children. Norovirus and Rotavirus infection was more prevalent in children less than 2 years of age. Vomiting and fever was present in 58% of cases. Norovirus cases were clinically indistinguishable from those of rotavirus origin. Norovirus was a frequent cause of acute sporadic gastroenteritis requiring hospitalization in Albanian children less than 5 years of age and it represents the second most common etiologic agent after rotavirus.

### Biography

Kota Majlinda has been Graduated from University of Tirana, Faculty of Natural Science in 1990 as Biologist. Later on she obtained his Master's Degree in 2002 and PhD in 2007 from Faculty of Natural Science with subjects in Virology. She is a virologist who works in the National Laboratory of Virology and with a university research group. Her research interests are enteroviruses, polioviruses of haemorrhagic fever, Herpes viruses and Influenza viruses. Among her achievements are the contribution to polio elimination and maintenance of polio free status in Albania and also the estimation of burden of rotavirus associated gastroenteritis which still is. Presently she has been working at the Faculty of Natural Science as the lecturer.

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