

“Evaluation of Rapid Diagnostic Test for Typhoid Fever” was done by Dr Shalini Suralkar in ‘JAPI’.

Aims:

Enteric Fever is a major cause of morbidity and mortality in the tropical countries. Most of these infections are diagnosed on clinical grounds. Blood is the gold standard to isolate the bacteria but may not give 100% results, also it takes at least 2-3 days for the results to come and the results are affected by many factors like prior antibiotic usage, timing of culture and the infrastructure, hence there is a need to develop a rapid and fairly reliable test to diagnose and treat enteric fever. Our main aim of the study was to determine the sensitivity and specificity of Rapid typhoid test as compared to the blood culture and the cost effectiveness.

Materials and Methods:

This was a retrospective analysis of 53 patients of clinically suspected cases of enteric fever. All these patients had undergone the rapid typhoid test as well as blood culture. Malaria was ruled out. All these patients were followed up until clinical response and until no other alternative diagnosis other than suspected enteric fever was confirmed.

Results:

Of the 53 patients, 25 patients were blood culture positive (47.17%), while 44 patients (83.01) had a positive rapid typhoid test. 23 patients were rapid typhoid test positive but blood culture negative (positive predictive value 100%). 4 patients blood culture revealed *S. paratyphi* and interestingly, none of them tested positive for the rapid typhoid test. This shows that this test is fairly specific for the *S. typhi* species

Conclusions:

Rapid typhoid test can be used as an important diagnostic test for the early and accurate diagnosis of clinically suspected cases of Enteric fever and treatment can be initiated until further evidence is available or other causes are ruled out.