

Tetracycline Resistant *Vibrio Cholerae* in Pilgrims Returning from Mecca

Dear Sir,

Tetracycline resistant *Vibrio Cholerae* has been reported both locally¹ and from some foreign countries like East Africa² and Bangladesh³. We would like to report three cases of tetracycline resistant *Vibrio cholerae* 01 biotype E1 Tor isolated from pilgrims returning from Mecca.

In June 1993, three patients, CE aged 66, ZY aged 73 and ZH aged 74 years, were admitted with diarrhoea and dehydration just after returning from Mecca after performing their pilgrimage. Rectal swabs were taken from which *Vibrio cholerae* 01 serotype Ogawa biotype E1 Tor were isolated. The strains were resistant to tetracycline 10ug, ampicillin 10ug, chloramphenicol 30ug and cotrimoxazole 25ug but sensitive to kanamycin 30ug and norfloxacin 10ug (comparative disc-diffusion method). They were also resistant to the vibriostatic compound 0/129 (2, 4 - diamino -6, 7, -di-isopropylpteridine) which is used as a primary screen in the identification of members of the family Vibrionaceae.

All three patients were treated with tetracycline. Patients CE and ZY were discharged well after more than three successive stool cultures proved negative for *Vibrio cholerae*. Patient ZH progressed to acute renal failure. His antibiotic was changed to pefloxacin based on the sensitivity report. He however discharged himself against medical advice and subsequently passed away at home. As international travel becomes increasingly easier and common among our local populace, this communication serves to alert doctors and bacteriologists about the possibility of tetracycline resistant strains of *Vibrio cholerae* as a cause of diarrhoeal diseases in patients returning from foreign countries.

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