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Only one of the 31 *S.paratyphi-A* isolates from Sevagram during the last decade was resistant to ampicillin only in contrast to resistance of Nagpur strains to not only to chloramphenicol, ampicillin and cotrimoxazole but two were multi drug resistant (MDR). All our strains, as also from Nagpur showed 100% sensitivity to ciprofloxacin, the drug of choice for enteric fever in India, though 32% of the isolates from New Delhi showed low susceptibility to ciprofloxacin (MIC>2.0mg/L).

The present communication endorses the observation of *S.paratyphi-A* as rapidly emerging pathogen of enteric fever in central India and though all strains at present are 100% sensitive to ciprofloxacin, the low susceptibility to this drug and increase in incidence of MDR strains reported from north India definitely warrants the judicious use of ciprofloxacin and emphasizes the need for continuous monitoring of susceptibility pattern in order to avoid outbreaks of drug resistant *S.paratyphi-A* in India.

3. PARAFFIN SLIDE CULTURE TECHNIQUE FOR ISOLATING NON-TUBERCULOUS MYCOBACTERIA FROM STOOL AND SPUTUM OF HIV SEROPOSITIVE PATIENTS : Narang P, Narang Rahul, Battacharya S, mendiratta DK. Indian J Tuberc 2004; 51: 23-26.

Objective : Paraffin slide culture method (PSC) was used to isolate Non-tuberculous mycobacteria (NTM) from stool and sputum samples of HIV seropositive and negative patients.

Material & Methods : Eighty stool and forty two sputum samples from both symptomatic or asymptomatic HIV sero-positive patients; and 40 stool and 128 sputum samples from symptomatic but HIV seronegative patients were cultured by PSC to assess its utility in isolating NTM from the clinical specimens. The samples were simultaneously processed by culture on Lowenstein Jensen (LJ) medium, for comparison with regard to isolation rate, isolation time and contamination rate.

Results & Conclusion : The PSC proved to be as good as LJ in isolating NTM from clinical specimens and, in addition, had the advantage of *in situ* staining for acid fast bacilli and lower contamination rate. The PSC was also used for typing NTM by biochemical tests.

Key words: Paraffin slide culture, HIV, Non-tuberculous mycobacteria.

1. SAFETY, TOLERABILITY, EFFICACY AND PLASMA CONCENTRATIONS OF DIETHYLCARBAMAZINE AND ALBENDAZOLE CO-ADMINISTRATION IN A FIELD STUDY IN AN AREA ENDEMIC FOR LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS IN INDIA.

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Abstract : Filariasis control programmes are moving towards a strategy of repeated single-dose mass treatment of endemic populations. Using a combination, such as albendazole (ALB) to diethylcarbamazine (DEC) gives both macrofilaricidal and anti-helminthic activity. However, the safety of the combination versus DEC alone should be established in field studies in large populations prior to incorporation into national programmes. The present study compared the safety, tolerability, and efficacy of single doses of DEC 6 mg/kg+ALB placebo with DEC 6mg/kg + ALB 400mg in populations living in two filariasis endemic villages in the district of Wardha in western India. The study was double blind, parallel group, and randomized. Safety and tolerability study were studied in males and females older than 5 years. Safety was assessed by monitoring if adverse events (AEs) over 5 days affected daily activities. Subjects in the 2 treatment groups experienced insignificantly different effects on daily activities and the combination was shown to be safe. Efficacy was evaluated by microfilaraemia (Mf), immunochromatographic test