CONCOMITANT TYPHOID INFECTION IN URINARY SCHISTOSOMIASIS IN SOUTH EASTERN NIGERIA.

V. O. NWAUGO, F. O. NDUKA and N. C. NWACHUKWU

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ABSTRACT
Concomitant typhoid fever infections in Urinary Schistosomiasis was investigated using both stool culture and serological techniques (Widal test). Of the 503 urinary Schistosomiasis patients screened 233 (46.32%) were typhoid fever positive by culture method, while 259 (51.49%) were positive with Widal test. Controls only gave 10% positive results. Statistical analysis showed no significant difference in the diagnostic methods but significant typhoid prevalence among the Schistosomiasis patients ($X^2 = P = 0.05$). There was no significant difference in the concomitant infection between the males and females but individuals between 10-20 and 20-30 years of age years of age were significantly more infected than those of other age groups.

INTRODUCTION
Schistosomiasis, caused by species of trematode Schistosoma, is a parasitic disease of great socio-economic and public health importance, second only to malaria (Roger, 1986; WHO, 1992, 1994). Several species are known but few have been implicated in human infections which include S. hematobium, S. japonicum, S. mansoni, S. mansoni, S. mekongi, S. matheei and S. intercalatum (Arene et al, 1989, WHO, 1994). Several millions of people are infected in 74 to 82 countries with over 20 million being clinically morbdis or disabled (Garfield, 1991, WHO, 1994). The disease is mainly chronic (Frandsen, 1979; Savoii and Mot, 1989).

Parasitic disease, though caused by various parasites (helminths, protozoa, nematodes, etc) are aggravated by concomitant microbial infections. Nduka et al. (1993) had reported the aggravation of paragonimiasis by concomitant or secondary bacterial infections especially during hemoptysis in parts of South Eastern Nigeria, Chessbrough (1984) andack (1990) reported the observation of Salmonella infection in Schistosomiasis of S. mansoni origin.

This work therefore sets out to investigate the prevalence of typhoid infection in the urinary schistosomiasis endemic area with regards to age and sex of the people. In addition, the use of serological test (Widal test) as a diagnostic procedure in such an area will also be examined.

MATERIALS AND METHODS
The study area was Umuchieze which lies at the Northern part of Abia State, Nigeria. All specimens were analyzed in Abia State University, Uturu Department of Microbiology Laboratory.

SAMPLE COLLECTION
Two clinical specimens were collected during this work. Stool specimens were obtained in sterile wide mouthed plastic containers with cover from 503 urinary Schistosomiasis patients identified during the preliminary survey. The preliminary survey involved the microscopic examination of subjects urine for the characteristically terminally spined eggs of S. haematobium. The urine specimens with the eggs were taken as positive, those without eggs were negative and taken as controls. Stool and blood collected by venepuncture, were also collected from 200 Schistosomiasis negative individuals as controls.

EXAMINATION OF SPECIMENS
The stool specimens were inoculated on prepared Deoxycholate Agar (DCA) and Salmonella Shigella Agar (SSA) plates and incubated at 37°C for 24-48 hours in Gallenkamp ordinary incubator. Observed bacterial colonies (colonies which turned black after 24 hours on DCA) were sub-cultured for pure isolates and subjected to microscopy (after staining) and some biochemical test for characterization and identification. The biochemical tests carried out include indole, Methyl Red Voges-Proskauer and Citrate Utilization tests. Others include Urea, Oxidase, Nitrate reduction, Hydrogen Sulphide production and sugar fermentation tests. The sugar tested were Glucose, Maltose, Maltose, Xylose and Arabinose.

The blood specimens were allowed to stand at room temperature for 1 hour in order to clot. The serum obtained was subjected to Widal test analysis using Biomed kits. Typhoid positive serum was taken as that with visible agglutination at ≥ 1:160 dilution.

RESULTS
Five hundred and three urinary Schistosomiasis – positive patients and two hundred Schistosomiasis – negative individuals were screened for typhoid fever using both culture and serological test (Widal). Of the 503, 233 (46.32%) of the urinary Schistosomiasis patients were observed to be typhoid fever positive using culture method, while 259 (51.49%) were observed positive based on Widal test technique. The control gave only 10% positive in each method used (Table 1). Statistical analysis showed a significant typhoid fever prevalence among the Schistosomiasis patients ($X^2 = P = 0.05$). The diagnostic technique used did not give any statistically different result ($X^2 = P = 0.05$).

Of the 317 males and 186 females screened, 151 (47.63%) males and 82 (44.00%) females were infected using culture method. The Widal test results showed 167 (52.68%) of the 317 males and 92 (49.66%) of the females as positive for typhoid. There was no significant difference in the prevalence of typhoid fever between the males and females in the area.

Subjects between 10-20 and 21-30 years age groups were significantly more infected than those of other age groups ($X^2 = P = 0.05$) (Table 2). Similar trends were observed using both types of diagnostic (Serological and culture) procedures.
TABLE 1: PREVALENCE OF TYPHOID INFECTION AMONG URINARY SCHISTOSOMIASIS PATIENTS IN THE STUDY AREA:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Methods Diagnosis</th>
<th>TEST SPECIMENS</th>
<th>CONTROLS SPECIMENS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Males</td>
<td>Females</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>culture (stool)</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>151 (47.63)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widal Test (Blood Serum)</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>167 (52.68)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**KEY:**
- NE = Number Examined
- N1 = Number Infected
- % = Percentage of each group infected in bracket.

TABLE 2: PREVALENCE OF TYPHOID INFECTION AMONG URINARY SCHISTOSOMIASIS PATIENTS OF DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS IN QUARRY PITS SITE OF DIAGNOSTIC TECHNIQUES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CULTURE TECHNIQUE (STOOL)</th>
<th>WIDAL TEST (BLOOD SERUM)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YEARS</td>
<td>NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-10</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-20</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21-30</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-40</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41-50</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51 and above</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>503</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**KEYS:**
- NE = Number of individuals examined in each group
- N1 = Number of individuals infected in each group
- % = Percentage of individuals infected.

CONFIRMATION OF THE ISOLATES AS SALMONELLA SPECIES

The isolates were motile, gram negative rods which were indole negative, Mr positive, VP negative and Citrate negative. The other characteristics are shown in Table 3.

CONFIRMATION OF THE SUBJECTS AS TYPHOID PATIENTS

A second set of specimens (stool and blood) were obtained from the urinary schistosomiasis positive and negative subjects and subjected to both culture and serological tests again for confirmation of the typhoid cases. The second set of specimens were collected four to five days after the first one. Those that remained positive in both sets of tests were regarded in this work as positive cases.

DISCUSSION

In this investigation, the culture of stool specimens from 503 urinary Schistosomiasis patients yielded 46.32% positive Salmonella species isolates. Screening using serological test (Widal) gave 51.43% positive typhoid infection. The results obtained from both diagnostic techniques suggest high typhoid prevalence among the urinary Schistosomiasis patients. This is more remarkable as only 10% of the 200 urinary Schistosomiasis negative individuals gave positive result.

Though the values observed in this work are high, they are still lower than 72% observed in Singapore by Pong and Puihuchery (1993) but higher than the 32% seen in Cawoon and Noah (1989). Singapore and Egypt are noted to have mainly intestinal Schistosomiasis. Endemcity.

The high prevalence of typhoid fever observed in this work is due to several factors. According to Cook (1980) and Chessbrough (1984), typhoid is common intestinal Schistosomiasis endemic area and Schistosomiasis has been shown to be endemic in Umuchieze, the study area (Nduka et al., 1995, Nwaugo 1998). Frequent outbreaks and endemcity of typhoid fever is a common feature of areas with low sanitary standard and poor hygiene (Rao et al., 1980, Stephen et al., 1984). Nduka et al. (1993, 1995) and Nwaugo (1998) had reported this low hygiene level in the area.

It was observed that widal test gave slightly higher, though statistically insignificant values than culture method. The difference, though not significant shows some important features. Chew et al (1992) had observed similar occurrences in their study in Singapore. Cook (1990) and Chessbrough, (1984) have suggested that the higher values observed in Widal test method could be due to the production of the antibodies by Schistosoma species which could cross react with the antigens produced by the Salmonella species. Chew et al.
TABLE 3: CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SALMONELLA SPECIES
ISOLATED FROM THE STOOL SPECIMEN EXAMINED.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Result Obtained</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Methyl Red Test</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vogues-Proskaur Test</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citrate Utilization test</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urease Test</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motility</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catalase test</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxidase test</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO3 reduction test</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H2S from TSI</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gelatin Hydrolysis</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gram Stain</td>
<td>Gram negative rods, mainly in singles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Super Fermentation

- Glucose
- Arabinose
- Maltose
- Mannitol
- Xylose
- Sorbitol
- Lactose

Key:
+ = Positive
* = Negative
A = Acid

NB: All tests were carried out as described by Chessbrough (1987).

(1992) Hernandez – Velardi et al (1980) and Levine et al agree that there could be small differences between cultural and serological evidences in typhoid. Pong and Puthucheny (1969) and Rae et al (1990) have also observed similar situations with the minor differences between culture and serological diagnostic methods.

Results obtained in this work showed that the sex of the individual did not play any role in the concomitant infection of Schistosomiasis and typhoid infections. This implies that the only important factor was the presence of the Schistosomiasis disease, which predisposed the subjects to typhoid infection. However, this was not the same with age as subjects between 10-20 and 21-30 years age groups were significantly more infected (P= 0.05) than those of other age groups. Nduka et al (1993; 1995) had reported that subjects of 10-20 years generally are more adventurous than other age groups. In a similar vein, Ferreccio et al (1989) and Levine et al (1978) had stated that typhoid fever was more prevalent in adolescents and young adults in older than in young subjects.

In conclusion, this work agrees that high typhoid prevalence is common in Schistosomiasis endemic areas but not limited to intestinal Schistosomiasis, meaning that both urinary and intestinal Schistosomiasis can predispose one to typhoid fever infection. In addition, the study confirms that Widal test and cultures techniques are still reliable diagnostic tools in typhoid diagnosis.

REFERENCES


