



Diagnostic Virology Laboratory



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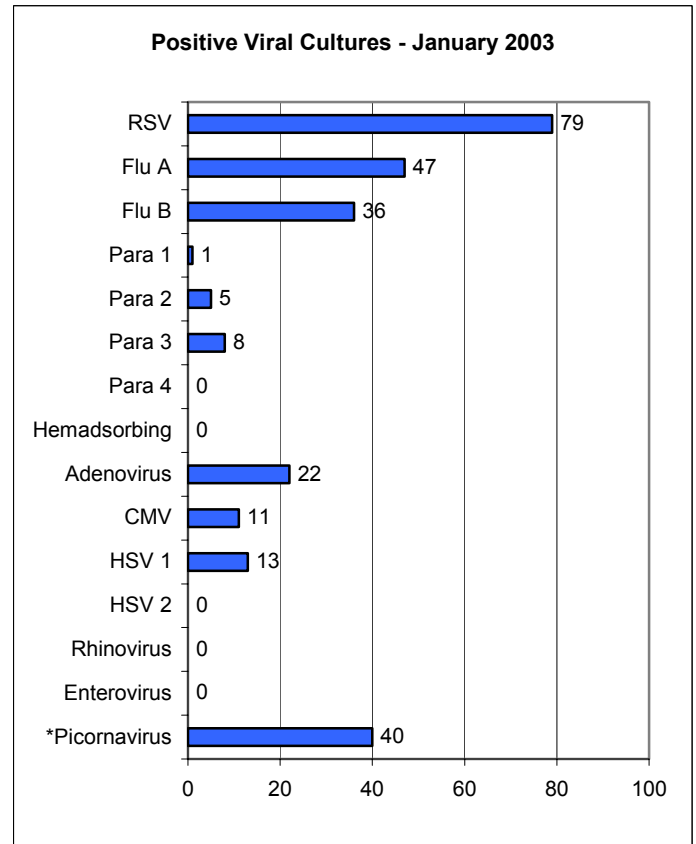
The most common virus isolated in January was still RSV, but "flu season" is here, with both influenza A and B virus being isolated in almost equal frequency so far this season. Other respiratory viruses, including parainfluenza viruses, adenoviruses and picornaviruses also are circulating.

The number of rapid tests requested was very high in January, signifying an increase in viral respiratory diseases. Note that 14% of RSV rapid tests were positive, but only 2 to 3% of rapid Flu A/B tests were positive. Early, preliminary analysis of the performance of the rapid Flu A/B tests available this year show a decreased sensitivity relative to culture. Remember, a negative rapid flu A/B test does not exclude influenza! Because rapid tests are not perfect, a back up, confirmatory viral culture will always be done, unless you request we do not perform the confirmatory test, and most results are available within 2 to 5 days.

Gail J. Demmler, M.D., Director
Diagnostic Virology Laboratory
Texas Children's Hospital
6621 Fannin St., Level B1, Room A.B. 180
Houston, TX 77030, U.S.A.
Telephone: (832) 824-2280 Fax: (832) 825-2283

You can also visit our website @:
www.bcm.tmc.edu/pedi/infect/dvl

Positive viral cultures – January 2003



Viral cultures – January 2003

Total	914
Positive	262
% Positive	29

EIA Rapid Test Results – January 2003

	RSV EIA	Flu A	Flu B
Tested	801	808	808
Positive	110	24	16
% Positive	14	3	2

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