



Diagnostic Virology Laboratory Newsletter



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The most common viruses isolated in April were parainfluenza virus type 3 and picornaviruses (both enteroviruses and rhinoviruses). Notice that no influenza and very little RSV is being detected at this time. Therefore, please do not order rapid testing for RSV and influenza unless there is a strong suspicion or an unusual circumstance, because these tests will be negative in most patients at this time.

Virology Question of the Month

Will routine viral culture detect arbovirus meningitis and encephalitis?

No, routine viral cultures will detect viral meningitis due to enteroviruses and perhaps herpes simplex viruses and adenoviruses. The diagnosis of these viruses also may be augmented or supplemented by PCR testing of the CSF performed in our laboratory. Infection with arboviruses, such as St. Louis encephalitis (SLE) virus and West Nile virus, are best detected by serologic testing of the blood, performed by the City of Houston Health Department Laboratory. In special circumstances, reference laboratories may perform testing by serology and PCR on CSF for arboviruses.

The warm summer season often brings an increase in aseptic meningoencephalitis due to enteroviruses and arboviruses. Please feel free to consult the virology laboratory for specific questions you may have.

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You can also visit our website @:

www.bcm.tmc.edu/pedi/infect/dvl

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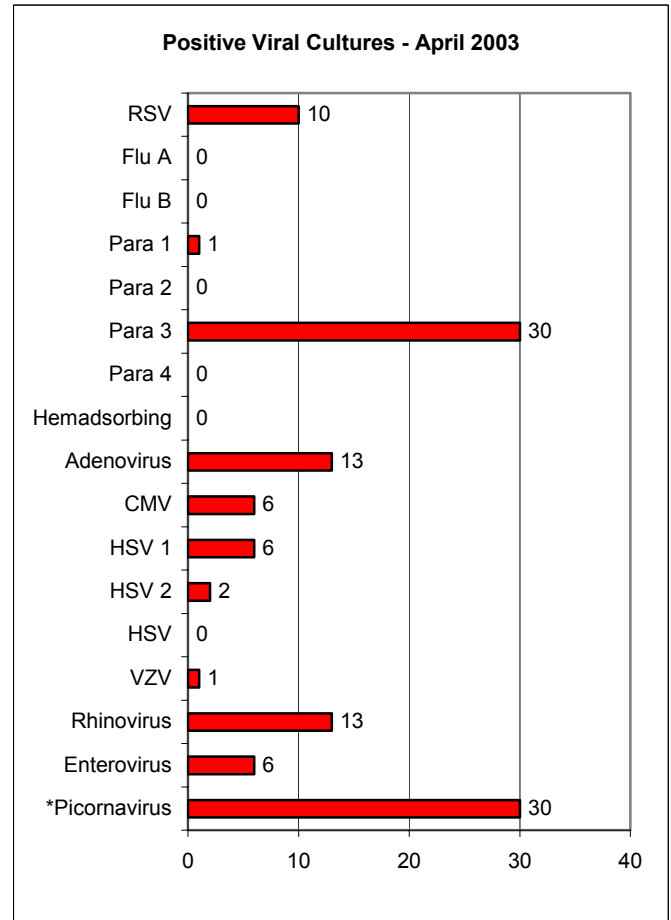
Name _____

E-mail address _____

Regular Mail Address _____

Not at all _____

Positive viral cultures – April 2003



Viral cultures – April 2003

| | |
|------------|------|
| Total | 355 |
| Positive | 118 |
| % Positive | 33.2 |

EIA Rapid Test Results – April 2003

| | RSV EIA | Flu A | Flu B |
|------------|---------|-------|-------|
| Tested | 245 | 239 | 239 |
| Positive | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| % Positive | 0.81 | 0 | 0 |

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