



# Diagnostic Virology Laboratory Newsletter



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The most common viruses isolated in June 2003 were picornaviruses, both rhinoviruses and enteroviruses. Adenoviruses also were common. Note that 3 respiratory cultures grew RSV and one grew influenza A virus, and none was detected by rapid tests. **Because of the current low prevalence of respiratory viruses, the use of rapid tests for RSV and Flu A/B should be reserved for special circumstances only.** Viral culture remains the reference standard especially during the summer months, and we will update you on the performance of the rapid tests as the RSV and Flu seasons emerge.

## Virology Question of the Month?

What type of aseptic viral meningitis are we seeing this summer?

ECHO9 has been the most common virus identified in CSF samples so far this spring and summer. During May & June 2003, 153 CSF samples (73 in May & 80 in June) were submitted for viral culture. 31 samples have grown enteroviruses so far (9 from May & 22 from June), and 15 were ECHO 9, 6 were ECHO 30, 3 were coxsackie A9, 1 was coxsackie B4, and 6 others are awaiting final typing.

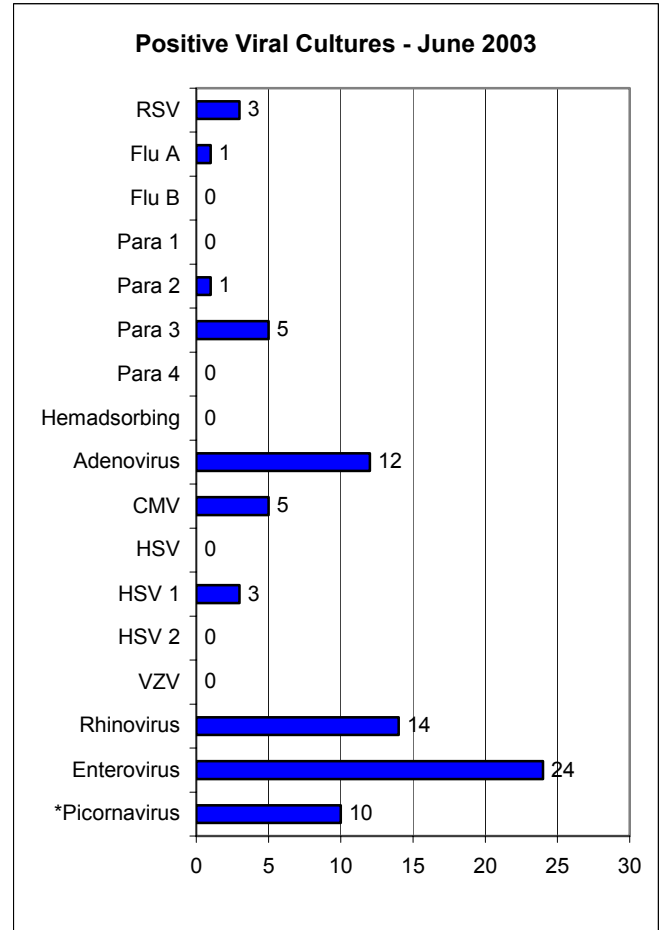
Many other viruses, such as herpes simplex or rabies, or arboviruses such as St. Louis and West Nile viruses, may cause aseptic meningitis or meningoencephalitis, esp. in the warm summer months, and require special testing for detection.

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You can also visit our website @:  
[www.bcm.tmc.edu/pedi/infect/dvl](http://www.bcm.tmc.edu/pedi/infect/dvl)

## Positive viral cultures – June 2003



## EIA Rapid Test Results – June 2003

	RSV EIA	Flu A	Flu B
Tested	75	72	72
Positive	0	0	0
% Positive	0	0	0

## Viral Cultures – June 2003

Total	222
Positive	78
% Positive	35

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