



# Diagnostic Virology Laboratory Newsletter



Texas Children's Hospital  
Changing the face of healthcare,  
one child at a time.<sup>SM</sup>  
www.texaschildrenshospital.org

August 2003



Vol. 8 No. 8

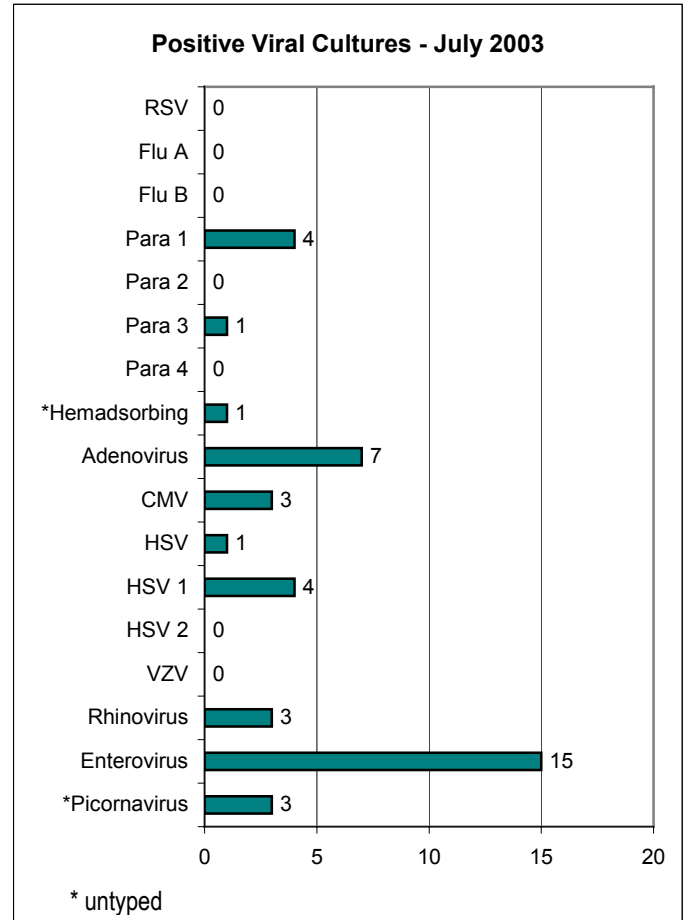
The most common viruses isolated during July 2003 were the enteroviruses, many of which came from spinal fluid samples. Adenoviruses, parainfluenza viruses and rhinoviruses also were isolated in small numbers from respiratory samples. Note that NONE of the rapid detection tests were positive for RSV or FLU A/B, and note that neither one of these viruses was isolated from cultures collected during July.

## Virology Question of the Month

Why do you offer rapid tests for RSV and FLU during the summer months?

That is a very good question! Analysis of positive respiratory viral culture results over the past several years have shown FLU and RSV are most commonly isolated in Houston during only 6 or 7 months of the year. RSV usually begins in September, peaks during December, and gradually declines through April. FLU usually follows RSV, and begins in late November early December, peaks in February, and declines through April. Therefore, to use our resources wisely, next year rapid testing will not be offered routinely when the prevalence of these viruses is nil. However, because the seasons of these viruses vary globally, and because of the unique nature of the children we serve here at Texas Children's Hospital, you may specially request these tests at any time during the year by contacting us. Look to this newsletter for further updates on rapid testing for RSV and FLU A/B.

## Positive viral cultures – July 2003



## Gail J. Demmler, M.D., Director

Diagnostic Virology Laboratory  
Texas Children's Hospital  
6621 Fannin St., Level B1, Room A.B. 180  
Houston, TX 77030-2399, U.S.A.  
Telephone: (832) 824-2280 Fax: (832) 825-2283  
[gdemmler@bcm.tmc.edu](mailto:gdemmler@bcm.tmc.edu)

## EIA Rapid Test Results – July 2003

	RSV EIA	Flu A	Flu B
Tested	50	42	42
Positive	0	0	0
% Positive	0	0	0

## Viral Cultures – July 2003

Total	181
Positive	42
% Positive	23

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

This newsletter is supported in part by unrestricted educational grants from:

