



# Diagnostic Virology Laboratory Newsletter



Texas Children's Hospital  
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one child at a time.<sup>SM</sup>  
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September 2003



Vol. 8 No. 9

The most common virus isolated from samples submitted to our laboratory in August was herpes simplex virus type 1. The most common respiratory viruses isolated were parainfluenza virus type 1, adenovirus, and picornaviruses (both rhinoviruses and enteroviruses.) Only one sample grew RSV and none grew influenza virus in August. All rapid tests were negative.

### Virology Question of the Week

Can West Nile Virus be detected by routine viral culture in your laboratory?

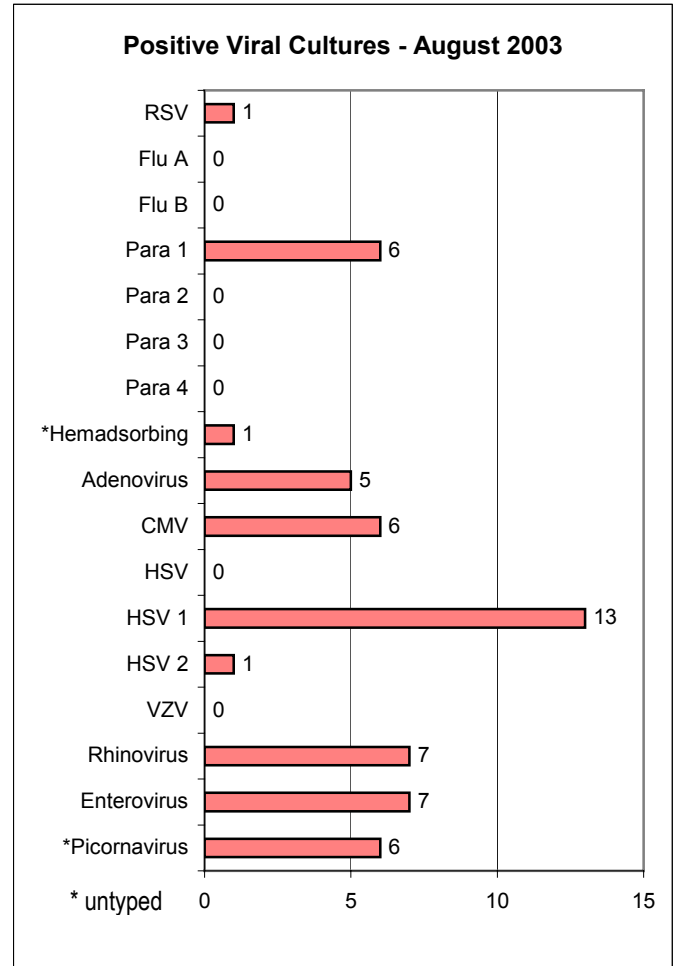
No, the laboratory diagnosis of infection with West Nile virus requires special techniques. The virus is not cultivated in routine cell cultures used in our laboratory. If you suspect a patient may have meningitis or encephalitis due to West Nile Virus in Houston, the case should be reported to the local health department and CSF and serum samples should be submitted to the Houston Department of Health and Human Services Laboratory. However, other viruses, such as enteroviruses and herpes simplex virus, can cause meningoencephalitis in infants and children and these viruses can be detected in our laboratory. If you have questions about coordinating samples for the best tests to use in a particular patient, you are encouraged to call the virology laboratory at 832-824-2280 or page Dr. Demmler (TCH beeper 5180). We'd be glad to help!

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

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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 – August 2003



### EIA Rapid Test Results – August 2003

	RSV EIA	Flu A	Flu B
Tested	76	62	62
Positive	0	0	0
% Positive	0	0	0

### Viral Cultures – August 2003

Total	207
Positive	53
% Positive	26

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

