



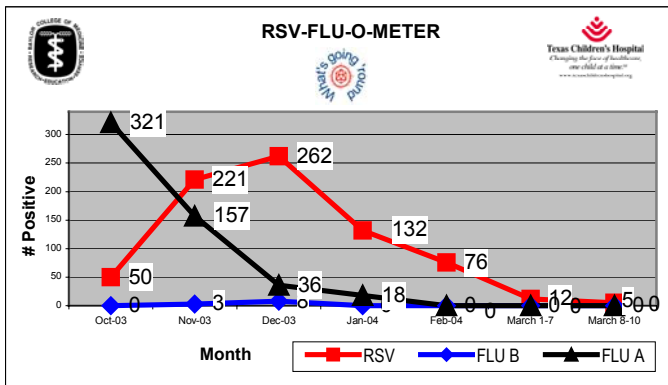
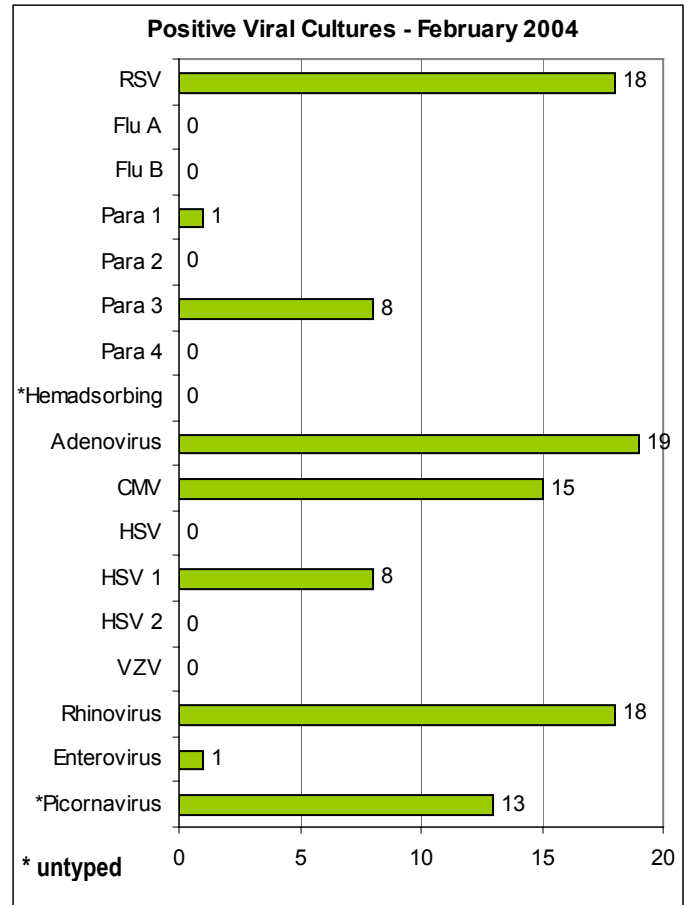
The most common virus isolated in February was adenovirus! Rhinoviruses, RSV, and parainfluenza viruses also were common. The number of RSV rapid detections and culture isolations has decreased and influenza virus was not detected or isolated at all in February. Looks like it's almost over folks!

Virology Question of the Month

Flu season is over and RSV season appears to be winding down, as well. Should I still order rapid RSV/FLU A&B tests on patients with respiratory illnesses?

FLU A&B rapid tests should not be ordered now unless you identify a new outbreak of febrile respiratory illness or you obtain a history that your patient may have traveled or come in contact with someone who traveled to another part of the world where influenza is now prevalent. The last 700 specimens ordered here for FLU A&B detection and culture were negative! Since RSV is still circulating, **RSV rapid tests should be ordered, but in selected patients only**, such as those in whom you have a strong clinical suspicion for RSV-associated disease. Rapid RSV and FLU A&B tests provide useful information in a timely manner, however the test kit materials used to perform these rapid tests are extremely expensive, and I urge you to use this valuable resource wisely! See how the RSV-FLU-O-METER [http://www.bcm.tmc.edu/pedi/infect/dvl/newsletter/RSV-FLU-O-METER\(combined\).pdf](http://www.bcm.tmc.edu/pedi/infect/dvl/newsletter/RSV-FLU-O-METER(combined).pdf) can help!

Positive Viral Cultures – February 2004



Viral Cultures – February 2004

Total	958
Positive	101
% Positive	10

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.
(832) 824-2280 telephone
(832) 825-2283 fax
gdemmler@bcm.tmc.edu

EIA Rapid Test Results – February 2004

	RSV	Flu A	Flu B
Tested	644	567	567
Positive	71	0	0
% Positive	11	0	0

Visit our website for weekly updates @:

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

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