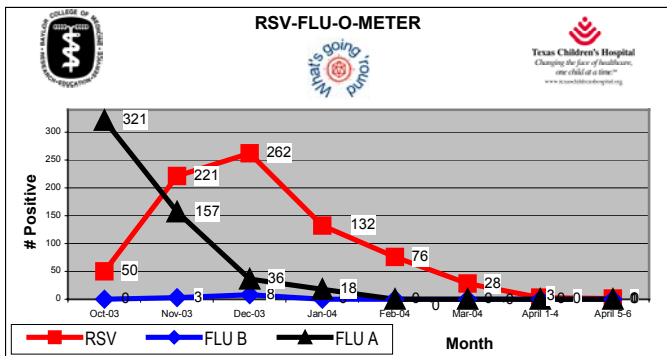




The most common virus isolated in March was parainfluenza virus, followed by adenovirus and picornaviruses (both rhinovirus and enterovirus). Also, enteroviruses have been detected by PCR and by viral culture in a few CSF samples. We have not detected influenza in over two months and very few rapid tests or cultures are positive for RSV now. Therefore, if you wish to evaluate a patient you suspect has a viral respiratory illness, a nasal wash culture is most likely to yield positive results. I encourage you NOT to order RSV/FLU A/B rapid tests routinely on patients at this time, but reserve testing only for patients with travel history to areas where these viruses are circulating. Judicious use of these expensive tests will allow us to serve you better in other areas of the laboratory! See how the RSV-FLU-O-METER

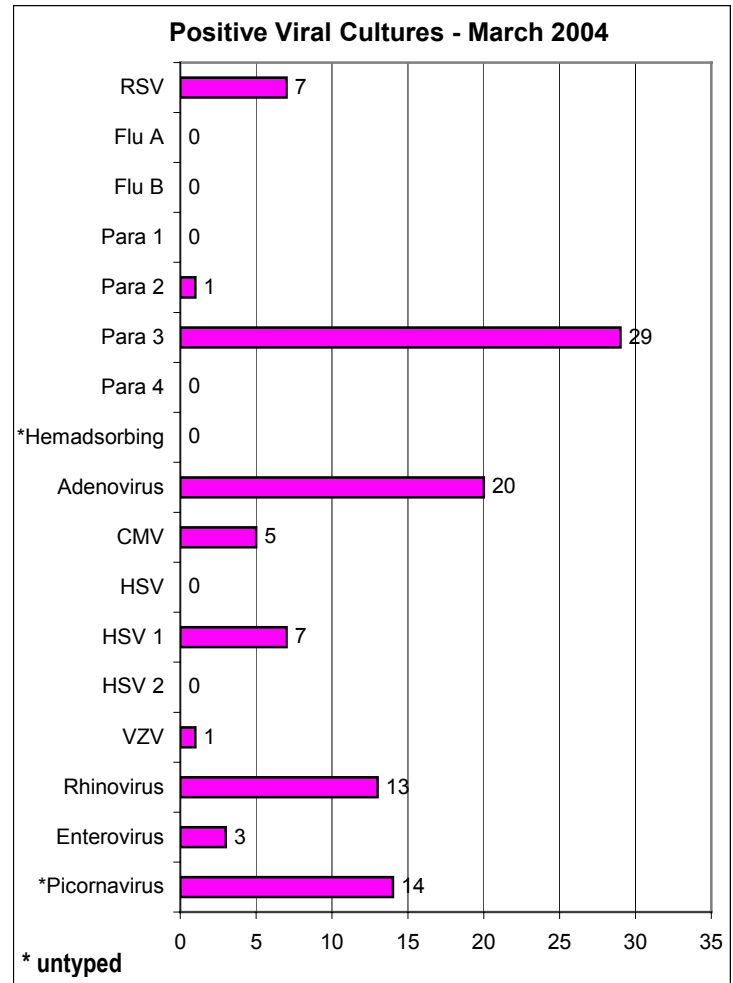
[http://www.bcm.tmc.edu/pedi/infect/dvl/newsletter/RSV-FLU-O-METER\(combined\).pdf](http://www.bcm.tmc.edu/pedi/infect/dvl/newsletter/RSV-FLU-O-METER(combined).pdf) can help!



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Positive Viral Cultures – March 2004



Viral Cultures – March 2004

Total	775
Positive	100
% Positive	13

EIA Rapid Test Results – March 2004

	RSV	Flu A	Flu B
Tested	403	369	369
Positive	28	0	0
% Positive	7	0	0