

## Summary

Group A streptococcus is a human pathogen implicated in many disease conditions, most common clinical manifestations being acute pharyngitis and impetigo in children.

Causative agent of impetigo contagiosa is Streptococcus pyogenes, Staphylococcus aureus or both organisms together. Acute glomerulonephritis (AGN) is a late sequelae of streptococcal infections of the skin and throat. This study was undertaken to determine the characteristics of group A streptococci in impetigo and the incidence of AGN in Sri Lankan children following skin sepsis.

Two groups of patients were studied. The impetigo group of patients had a mean age of 3 1/2 years and a slight female preponderance (53.5%).

Prevalence of group A streptococcus from skin lesions was assessed in 3 age groups < 2 years, 2 - 5 years and 5 - 14 years. Highest percentage (75%) of isolates were found in the 5 - 14 year age group. A statistically significant association ( $P < 0.05$ ) between culture and elevated anti deoxyribonuclease B (ADNase B) was detected. But there was no statistical association between elevated anti streptolysin O (ASO) titre and culture for Streptococcus. ( $P = 0.26$ )

The most prevalent T types in the impetigo patients were T 3, T 13, and T 11. T 3/13/B3264 complex and T 28 also occurred at a high frequency. 88.5% of the strains were T-typable. Only 28% of the isolates were serum opacity factor positive.

One patient among this group of 56 impetigo patients developed AGN during the study period; bringing the incidence of development of AGN following impetigo to 1.8%.

AGN group consisted of 25 clinically diagnosed in - ward patients. The mean age of the group was 6 yrs 7 months while 56% of them were males. 72% of the patients had an elevated ASO titre while 56% had an elevated ADNase B titre. Both titres were high in 48% of patients.