

Molecular Characterization of Human Adenoviruses Associated with Pediatric Respiratory Infections in Omdurman, Sudan

Abdulaziz Abdirizak Saed¹, Dr. Mohammed Eldai Hamad², Dr. Rashid Awad Abdalla Salih³, Dr. Mohammed Ahmed Abd Allah^{4*}

¹Post Graduate, Garb El-Neil College, Sudan

²Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Medical Laboratory Sciences, Dar Eloum College for Science and Technology, Khartoum, Sudan

³King Fahad Military Medical Complex Dhahran, KSA

⁴Department of Pathology, College of Medicine, Karary University Sudan, P.O. Box: 12304, Khartoum, Sudan

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*Corresponding author: Dr. Mohammed Ahmed Abd Allah

Department of Pathology, College of Medicine, Karary University Sudan, P.O. Box: 12304, Khartoum, Sudan

Abstract

Original Research Article

Acute respiratory viral infection (ARVI) is a common cause of morbidity and mortality especially in pediatric patients. Among important respiratory pathogens are adenoviruses, The illnesses can range from the common cold to pneumonia Depending on the type, adenoviruses can cause other illnesses such as gastroenteritis, conjunctivitis, cystitis, and, less commonly, neurological disease. Aim of study: molecular detection of respiratory infection due to adenovirus among children in Khartoum state. Respiratory specimens were collected from children's patients with RTIs in the emergency department Mohamed Alamin Hamid pediatric hospital Omdurman in Khartoum state during the period of October 2022 to February 2023.the HAdV infection were determined by PCR technique. A total of 50 nasal swap were investigated for HAdV, throughout th PCR technique by using specific primer. The results showed 18 (36.0%) were positive and 32 (64.0%) were negative for HAdVs. The statistical analysis revealed no significant difference between age groups ($X^2=0.786$ P. value: 0.375). This study summarized the HAdV were the predominant types identified in children less than five years intend to have respiratory tract infection according to clinical symptoms of upper or lower respiratory infections.by using conventional PCR for identify with highly sensitively.

Keywords: Adenovirus; Infections; Respiratory Tract Infection; Pediatrics; Sudan.

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1.1 INTRODUCTION

Acute respiratory tract infections (ARTI) are regarded as important causes of morbidity and mortality in pediatric patients. This refers to both outpatient visits and 20- 40% of hospitalized patients [1, 2]. The significant impact of these infections on developing countries is based on the fact that nearly 50% of pediatric consultations are related to the respiratory tract infection (RTI) [3]. The world health organization (WHO) ranks the lower RTIs as the leading cause of disease worldwide, which accounts for 4 million deaths per year [2, 4]. Most of these infections are caused by respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), influenza virus A or B (FluV), parainfluenza virus (PIV), rhinovirus (RV), and human adenovirus (HAdV). Several recently discovered viruses such as human meta pneumovirus (HMPV), human bocavirus (HBoV), and human corona viruses (HCoV) have been identified as potential respiratory pathogens [5].

The name (HAdVs) derives from their initial isolation from human in 1953 [6]. It infect a broad range of vertebrate hosts; in humans, more than 50 distinct adenoviral have been found to cause a wide range of illnesses, from mild respiratory infections in young children (known as the common cold) to life threatening multi-organ disease in people with a Weakened immune system [7].

This pathogen is classified among the Adenoviridae family and belongs to the genus Mastadenovirus It is a ubiquitous non enveloped virus of medium-sized double-stranded-DNA ranging from 34 kb to more than 37 kb, which encodes around 40 genes [8]. Human adenoviruses (HAdVs) are a common cause of respiratory infection in persons of all ages. Acute upper and lower respiratory tract diseases, including pneumonia and bronchitis, have been attributed to HAdVs. Although many infections are mild, some

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persons, such as very young children, elderly or immunocompromised persons [9].

Human adenoviruses also (HAdV) are a major cause of clinical infections including gastroenteritis, conjunctivitis, ocular, respiratory diseases, hemorrhagic cystitis and chronic systemic infections [10]. Human adenoviruses (HAdVs) are classified into 7 species (Human mastadenovirus A to G) and at least 69 recognized genotypes based on serology, whole-genome sequencing, and phylogenetic analyses [11]. Adenovirus accounts for 5-15% of upper and lower RTIs in infants and children hospitalized for respiratory disease [2, 12]. The detection of viral nucleic acids by amplification assays [12].

2. Objectives

According to the importance of this virus, we aimed to detect of respiratory infection caused by adenovirus among children in Mohammed Alameen Hamid pediatric Hospital in Khartoum State, and show prevalence of adenovirus infection among different age group.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1. Clinical Specimens

The specimens used in this study were collected, from throat swabs from 50 pediatric patients with RTI admitted to the MAHPH, from August 2022 to February 2023. The relevant clinical information was obtained through a standard questionnaire, containing, hospitalization status, age, sex, and clinical symptoms such as fever, cough, sneeze, and muscle ache. Throat swabs immersed in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS pH 7.2) and stored at -70°C for subsequent DNA extraction.

3.2 Detection and isolation of adenoviruses:

DNA was done extracted by steps: cell lysis, protein precipitation and DNA precipitation ZR Viral DNA kit (Viral DNA Extraction) Epigenetics company (USA) as described by the manufacturer's instructions.

Primers

Primer sequence was used for the amplification of human adenovirus [48]. The more details in the appendix (5'-CTGATGTACTACAACAGCACTGGCAACATGGG-3) (5'-GCGTTGCGGTGGTTAAATGGGTTTACGAT-3). Master Mix kits containing all reagents for PCR except water and primers will be using although Storage of the master mix will be under (-20).

Amplification Conditions of PCR

The amplification was done by using (0.25) PCR Eppendorf tubes using thermocycler PCR. (SensoQuest, Germany) The amplification conditions are: denaturation annealing and extension. The per mixture was subjected to initial denaturation step at 94c for 5 min followed by 35 cycles of denaturation at 94c

for 1 min, primer annealing at 52c for 1 min followed by step of extension at 72c for 1 min and final elongation at 72c for 10 min.

Gel Electrophoresis

Amount of (1.5 gm) of agarose powder (appendix 1) was weighted, (100 ml) 1X TBE buffer be added, the mixture was heated by microwave until clear solution is produced, allowed to cool, then (2µl) of Ethidium bromides was added, mixed well and poured on to suitable gel tray that was equipped with suitable combs to form well that used for loading the PCR products. Any bubbles was removed and the gel was allowed to solidify at room temperature. After solidification, the comb will be gently removed and the spacer from the opened sides was removed. The gel was removed by gel holder and visualized under the ultraviolet Transilluminator to detect the specific amplification sequence 100.1000pb.

3.3 Data Analysis

The collected data done in computerized and analyzed by statistical package for social sciences (SPSS).

4. RESULTS

A total of numbers of 50 nasal swabs were selected as a study group from different children less than 5 years, for the detection of HAdV DNA. Results showed that 18 (36.0%) were positive and 32 (64.0%) were negative for HAdVs as tested by a conventional PCR. The distribution of the results shows (Table 1).

The study shows the gender distribution between males (32.0%) and females (68.0%) the study shows (Table 2). And according to age of children that target in academic study level are 1 years 3(6.0%) and 2 year is 10 (20.0%) were 3 years is 18 (36.0%) And 4 years is 12 (24.0%) and 5 years is 7(14.0%) the distribution (show table 3) were the age group of children, are classified into two groups. The group one is ≤ 2 years 13 (26.0%) were s group two is > 2 years 37 (74.0%).

Regarding to respiratory tract infection where classified base on the symptoms that suffering of the patient. The upper respiratory tract infection is 30 (60.0%) were the lower respiratory tract infection is 20.

According to association of the results with age are, 1 year were positive is 1 (2%) and negative is 2 (4%) were the total is 3 (6%) and the 2 year were positive 5 (10.0) and negative 5 (10%) were the total is 10(20.0) and the 3 years the positive is 3 (6.0%) and negative is 15 (30.0%) were the total is 18 (36.0%). and the 4 years the positive is 5 (5.0%) and negative is 7 (14.0%) where the total is 12 (24.0%) and the 5 years the positive is 4 (8.0%) and negative is 3 (6.0%) where the total is 7 (14.0). the total result of positive is 18 (36.0%)

and the total result of negative is 32 (64.0%) where the total count is 50 (100%) the Chi-square:5.305 and P. value: 0.257. This is insignificant value of probability (P. value) according to level of (0.257) (Table 3).

According to association of the results with age group we classified into two groups The result of group one ≤ 2 years positive is 6 (12.0%) and negative is 7 (14.0%) in total of group one is 13 (26.0%) where the result of group > 2 years positive is 12 (24.0%) and negative is 25 (50.0%) in total of group two is 37 (74.0%) the association of total result count positive is 18 (36.0%) and negative is 32 (64.0%) where the total count 50 (100.0%).

The Chi-square:0.786 and P. value: 0.375. This is insignificant value of probability (P. value) according to level of 0.375 (Table 4).

According to the gender HAdVs infections, this study showed no significant difference of infections

between males positive 5 (10%) and negative 11 (22.0%) in total 16 (32.0%) where the females positive is 13 (26.0%) and negative 21 (42.0%) in total 34 (68.0%) the total count is 50 (100.0%). the Chi-square:0.230 and P. value: 0.631. This is insignificant value of probability (P. value) according to level of 0.631 (Table 5).

Regarding to the association symptoms of respiratory tract infection the academic level show no significant difference correlation. The result of upper respiratory tract infection positive is 12 (24.0%) and negative is 18 (36.0%) in total 30 (60.0%) where the result of lower respiratory tract infection positive is 6 (12.0%) and negative is 14 (28.0%) in total 20 (40.0%) the total count is 50 (100.0%). the Chi-square:0.512 and P. value: 0.470. This is insignificant value of probability (P. value) according to level of 0.470 (Table 6).

Distribution of Results

Table 1: Frequency of Negative and Positive Results of Adenovirus Samples

Result	Frequency	Percent
Positive	18	36.0
Negative	32	64.0
Total	50	100.0

Distribution of Gender

Table 2: Frequency of Distribution of gender

Gender	Male	16	32.0
	Female	34	68.0
	Total	50	100.0

Table 3: Association of results with age

Age		Result		Total
		Positive	Negative	
1	Count	1	2	3
	%	2.0%	4.0%	6.0%
2	Count	5	5	10
	%	10.0%	10.0%	20.0%
3	Count	3	15	18
	%	6.0%	30.0%	36.0%
4	Count	5	7	12
	%	10.0%	14.0%	24.0%
5	Count	4	3	7
	%	8.0%	6.0%	14.0%
Total	Count	18	32	50
	%	36.0%	64.0%	100.0%
Chi-Square:5.305 P.value: 0.257				

Table 4: Association of results with age group

Age group		Result		Total
		Positive	Negative	
≤ 2 years	Count	6	7	13
	%	12.0%	14.0%	26.0%
>2 years	Count	12	25	37
	%	24.0%	50.0%	74.0%
Total	Count	18	32	50
	%	36.0%	64.0%	100.0%
Chi-Square:0.786 P.value: 0.375				

Table 5: Association of Results with Gender

Gender		Result		Total
		Positive	Negative	
Male	Count	5	11	16
	%	10.0%	22.0%	32.0%
Female	Count	13	21	34
	%	26.0%	42.0%	68.0%
Total	Count	18	32	50
	%	36.0%	64.0%	100.0%
Chi-Square:0.230 P.value: 0.631				

Table 6: Association of Results with Respiratory

Respiratory		Result		Total
		Positive	Negative	
Upper	Count	12	18	30
	%	24.0%	36.0%	60.0%
Lower	Count	6	14	20
	%	12.0%	28.0%	40.0%
Total	Count	18	32	50
	%	36.0%	64.0%	100.0%
Chi-Square:0.512 P.value: 0.470				

5. DISCUSSION

Respiratory infection is a leading cause of morbidity, hospitalization, and death in pediatric patients [12]. Adenoviruses are most important respiratory pathogens, and constitute 5-10% of all RTIs in infants and children younger than two years of age and 1–7% in adults, in patients with severe HAdV pneumonia, the mortality rate may exceed 50% [12].

Adenovirus infections can be diagnosed by a variety of traditional and molecular methods. Molecular methods are most sensitive for detecting adenovirus in clinical specimens. The present study was conducted to detect HAdV by nested PCR. The frequency of HAdV in our study was 36% (18 out of 50 samples) that is slightly higher than the frequency of 22% reported by another study from Iran [13, 14], and several parts of the world including Oman (15%), Kenya (14%), Brazil (10%), Korea (10.3%), Australia (7.3%), Hung Kong (5.3%), Mejia (5.2%), and China (4.9%) [15-17]. This high results in our study due to small size of the study (50 samples). In the present study According to the age group

of children, were classified into two groups.the group is ≤ 2 years 13 (26.0%) were other group is > 2 years 37 (74.0%) where finding there no difference correlation between them and the statistical result show insignificant of P .value is 0.786 these finding agree with study done by Moattari *et al.*, [18]. that stated the P. value is 0.527. but This study finding disagree with significant result p. value 0.01. Khalaf R, Fadhil H *et al.*, [19].

According to the gender this study showed no significant difference in HAdVs infections between males 16 (32.0%) and females 34 (68.0%) the P. value is 0.230. the other study agree with no significant of P. value is 0.299. also showed between males and females [21, 19]. But this study disagrees with J.S. Ampuero *et al.*, by significant p. value 0.017 [22]. Adenovirus plays a role respiratory tract infection, regarding to the study show there no significant correlation between upper respiratory tract infection and lower respiratory tract infection the P. value is 0.512. But these finding disagree with study done by Moattari *et al.*, [18]. 0.003 0.004.4.2.

6. CONCLUSION

This study provides the molecular in a total of 50 sample of nasal swap, were identified human adenovirus infection in children less than five years with suffering in respiratory tract infection and This study provides the infection were those have clinical symptoms of upper or lower respiratory tract infection the study concluded was insignificant and No correlation observed in respiratory of human adenovirus infection with age and gender.

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