



ASSESSMENT OF THE CORRELATION BETWEEN THE PUS CELL COUNT AND THE pH LEVEL OF VIABLE ISOLATES OF URINE SAMPLES FROM URINARY TRACT INFECTIONS AMONG PRIMARY SCHOOL BOYS IN ADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT, EKITI STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

A total number of 240 urine samples from primary school boys were collected from different primary schools within Ado-Ekiti. The urine samples were collected for isolation, cultural characteristics and biochemical identification of enteric bacteria and other UTI pathogens which may be present in the urine sample of children attending public schools in Ado-Ekiti. Insignificant growth occurred in 200 (83.33%) of the isolate, 33 (13.75%) of the samples did not have any growth, while 7 (2.92%) sample had significant growth. Pus cell count was carried out to determine the correlation between the pus cell count the PH of the seven samples with significant growth. The result showed that there was a direct correlation between the pus cell count and the pH of samples with significant growth, showing that 50% of children with significant bacteriuria had significant pus cell count, with alkaline pH in their urine.

INTRODUCTION

Urinary tract infection (UTI) is an infection that occurs when bacteria gain access into urinary system i.e the bladder and the kidney. UTI is one of the most common bacterial infections in children and requires prompt recognition, treatment and investigations (Fenwick, Briggs, and Hawke, 2010).

Urinary tract infection represents one of the most common types of infectious disease encountered in the practice of medicine today. The infection may cause significant morbidity, inconveniency and anxiety in children and their families and result in considerable consumption of resources (Jantunen *et al*, 2010). Generally, any situation that leads to state of urine in the bladder frequently increases the chance of UTI as

this enhances the multiplication of bacteria (Fenwick *et al*, 2010).

Urinary tract infection can be categorized into two areas of involvement. This includes (i) cystitis (bladder infection) and (ii) pyelonephritis (kidney infection) cystitis implies a superficial mucosal inflammation of the bladder, clinically characterized by dysuria, urinary urgency, nocturia, supra pubic discomfort, and less often, hematuria and urinary inconveniency. (Ardissino *et al*, 2003).

Symptoms of urinary tract infections are usually non-specific in a baby or child. Unexplained fever or fever without an obvious source is the only consistent symptoms among young children with UTI.

Urinary tract is diagnose by testing the urine for the present of pus cells and bacteria (Jodal, 2017).

Antibiotic to kill the bacteria are use in the treatment of UTI. Children are often admitted to hospital for more aggressive and effective antibiotics treatment by injecting the antibiotics directly in to the blood stream through a drip or what is termed intravenous antibiotics treatment (Vaillancourt *et al*, 2017).

Pus is the result of the body's natural immune system automatically responding to an infection usually by bacteria of fungi. The normal range of pus cell in normal healthy male urine is 0 -1 pus cell per hpf or high power field under the microscope (Chaudhari, *et al*, 2016). The presence of pus cells urine is often indication of an urinary tract infection. However UTI may affect different parts of the urinary tract causing different condition. If it infect the urethra, the infection is called urethritis. After this the infection might go further to infect the bladder, with is a condition known as cystitis. If the urine blocks the urinary tract, it may go further to infect the kidneys and cause the disease called pyelonephritis. If pus cell are collected along the course of the urinary tract, it causes a condition known as abscess (Chang and Shortliffe, 2006). If pus cell are present in the urine, the urine become dark and cloudy. It may even have a shade of red colours because of blood presence in the urine. It is also common that the urine has a bad smell (Vaillancourt, *et al*, 2017).

Ordinarily when urine starts to look cloudy instead of being purely clear, the condition one may be suffering from is known as pyuria which means that there are too many pus cells in the urine. The presence of pus cells in the urine is often an indication of a urinary tract infection, commonly known as UTI, and therefore apart from pyuria, children may suffer from other unpleasant symptoms. UTI can cause painful or burning sensation while passing urine, accompanied by more frequent urination or feel a strong urge to urinate but resulted in passage of only few drops of urine (Stein *et al*, 2015).

The normal range of pus cell is 0-5, 8-10 range of pus cell indicates the presence of bacteria, hence the presence of urinary tract infection.

Table 1: Pus cell count and pH of urine sample of bacteriuric primary school boys

Isolates	Bacteriuria	Pus cell count	PH
10	Asymptomatic	Nil	5
18	Symptomatic	Significant	8
100	Symptomatic	Significant	7
120	Asymptomatic	Nil	6
200	Asymptomatic	Nil	5.5
203	Symptomatic	Significant	8
210	Symptomatic	Significant	8

The Urine pH level is the level of the acidity or alkalinity (basic) of the urine. However, the urine pH test measures the acidity of urine. (Israni and Kasiske, 2011). Healthy urine has a pH from 3.5 to 6.5, i.e on the acid range of pH. A pH of 4 is strongly acidic, 7 is neutral (neither acidic or alkaline) and 9 is strongly alkaline (Israni and Kasiske, 2011).

MATERIALS AND METHOD

A mid-stream catch of voided first early morning urine was collected from primary school children whose age ranges between 5-12 years. Urine samples collective were taken to the laboratory for processing within 12 hours of collection 5 to 6ml of urine sample were placed in 12ml test tubes and centrifuged at 2000 revolution per minutes (r. p. m) for 5 minutes. The supernatants were discarded and the tubes were tapered vigorously. By to resuspend urine sediments. An aliquot of the sediment were placed on a glass slide and covered with a cover slip and then examined microscopically for the presence of epithelial cells, leucocytes bacterial cells, sulphur crystals, red blood cells, white blood cells, and pus cells. The pH of different urine samples were determined using a litmus paper test.

RESULTS

A total of 240 urine sample from primary school boys were collected from different primary schools within Ado Ekiti. These urine samples were collected for isolation, cultural characteristics and biochemical identification of enteric bacteria and UTI pathogen which may be present in the urine specimens of children attending public school in Ado Ekiti.

Insignificant growth occurred in 200 (83.33%) of the isolate, 33 of the sample did not have any growth (13.75%) while 7 (2.92%) of the urine samples had significant growth (table 1).

Pus cell count was carried out to determine if the 7 sample with the significant growth have symptomatic or asymptomatic types of infection. The result showed that there was correlation between significant pus cell count, symptomatic bacteriuric and the pH of the corresponding urine samples, as shown in table 1.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Urinary tract infection is a problem of great medical importance worldwide. Urinary tract infections have been known to be caused majorly by the family of gram- negative rod- shaped aerobic organism called Enterobacteriaceae.

In this work, urine samples were collected from 240 apparently healthy primary school boys within Ado-Ekiti. 200 (83.33%) urine samples showed an significant growth, 33 (13. 75%) of the samples did not give any growth while 7 (2. 92%) showed a significant bacteria count.

In this work, the result shown that there was correlation between pus cell count, symptomatic bacteriuria and pH of the corresponding isolates. This can be seen in table 1. A significant pus cell count was obtained in 4 out of the 7 isolated samples, with a corresponding pH range between 7-8 recorded. The remaining 4 isolates showed an insignificant pus cell count and asymptomatic bacteriuria resulting in a pH range between 5-6.

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