64% for children aged 6 to 11 months, 72.7% for children aged 12 to 23 months, 87.1% for children aged 24 to 35 months, and 90.3% for children 3 to 6 years old, respectively. The seropositivity of hMPV and RSV was considerably similar in almost all age groups.
CONCLUSIONS: hMPV seems to be a common and important respiratory pathogen in Chongqing's children. Almost all individuals had been exposed to hMPV by the age of 6 years.

DETECTION OF HUMAN BOCAVIRUS IN CHINESE CHILDREN WITH RESPIRATORY TRACT INFECTION

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INTRODUCTION: Human bocavirus (HBoV), a parvovirus discovered in 2005, was identified as a respiratory pathogen in a proportion of respiratory tract diseases with an unknown causative agent.
OBJECTIVE: Our goal was to investigate the role of HBoV in acute lower respiratory tract infection in Chinese children.
METHODS: Two hundred forty-five nasopharyngeal aspirates collected from January to December 2006 from hospitalized children with acute lower respiratory tract infection were tested for the presence of HBoV DNA by using polymerase chain reaction (PCR) that targeted the *NP-1* gene. Bulk PCR products were subjected to nucleotide sequence analysis. Medical charts were reviewed for clinical features of HBoV infection.
RESULTS: HBoV DNA was detected in 11 (4.5%) of the 245 nasopharyngeal aspirates. HBoV infection occurred year-round and peaked in winter. The age range of the children was from 48 days to 18 months. Coinfections of HBoV and respiratory syncytial virus were found in 2 (18.2%) of 11 samples. Nucleotide sequence of the *NP-1* gene PCR products showed considerably high identity (99%). Clinical symptoms included cough and wheezing.
CONCLUSIONS: HBoV seems to be one of the respiratory pathogens for acute respiratory tract infection in the Chongqing area, particularly in young children. Understanding of the clinical relevance of HBoV infection will require additional studies.

COMBINATION OF ARTESUNATE-AMODIAQUINE AS A TREATMENT FOR UNCOMPLICATED FALCIPARUM MALARIA IN CHILDREN

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INTRODUCTION: Resistance of falciparum malaria to both chloroquine and pyrimethamine-sulfadoxine has been reported from Indonesia and other countries. Since the end of 2004, we have changed the standard treatment of uncomplicated falciparum malaria to use a combination of artesunate and amodiaquine.
OBJECTIVE: Our aim was to evaluate the efficacy and adverse reactions of artesunate-amodiaquine as a treatment for uncomplicated falciparum malaria in children.
METHODS: We conducted a cross-sectional study at Panyabungan, Mandailing Natal Regency, North Sumatera Province, Indonesia, from August to September 2006. The sample was school-aged children between 5 and 18 years old. The sample received an oral dose of artesunate (4 mg/kg body weight) combined with an oral dose of amodiaquine (10 mg/kg body weight) for 3 days. Parasitemia was assessed at days 0, 2, 7, and 28.
RESULTS: Peripheral blood smears were performed for 376 school-aged children; 135 of them tested positive for falciparum malaria. At the end of the study (28 days), 121 cases completed a full course of study. From the peripheral blood smears on days 2, 7, and 28, we found a 100% cure rate. Adverse reactions included 20 children (16.5%) with headache, 10 (8.3%) with vomiting, and 1 (0.8%) with tinnitus.
CONCLUSIONS: A combination of artesunate and amodiaquine can be used as treatment for uncomplicated falciparum malaria in children with the caution of headache as an adverse reaction of the drug combination.

INTERLEUKIN 18 GENE POLYMORPHISM AS A POTENTIAL HOST-SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTOR IN TUBERCULOSIS IN CHONGQING, CHINA

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INTRODUCTION: Interleukin 18 (IL-18), which is an important interferon γ inducer, regulates the expression of the proinflammatory cytokine interferon γ and the antituberculosis response.
OBJECTIVE: Our goal was to investigate polymorphisms of the IL-18 gene promoter and determine whether polymorphism of the IL-18 gene promoter is a

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