**Vibrio parahaemolyticus: a leading cause of infectious diarrhoea in Hong Kong**

SSW Chan, KC Ng, WL Cheung, TH Rainer

*Vibrio parahaemolyticus* is one of the commonest pathogens responsible for infectious diarrhoea in Asia. This article highlights recent findings from a retrospective study in an A&E Department in Hong Kong, and reviews current literature in regard to the epidemiological features and laboratory investigations. Prevention, prompt diagnosis and treatment are discussed. *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* gastroenteritis causes significant morbidity, and is much more prevalent in the summer season. Compared to other bacterial gastroenteritis, patients with this condition may present relatively sooner after the onset of diarrhoea. To ensure prompt detection of outbreaks, an appropriate stool culture medium specific for *Vibrio spp.* should be used. (Hong Kong j.emerg.med. 2002;9:23-29)

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