

SEATO MEDICAL RESEARCH STUDY ON RESPIRATORY VIRUSES

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General Information:

The major effort in the respiratory virus field during the period of this report was concerned with development of techniques, human cell lines, and reference antisera for isolation and identification of respiratory viruses.

Human embryonic kidney and human embryonic lung cells at low passage level (2nd to 6th) are now being regularly produced in sufficient quantities for routine use. A new Hela cell line suitable for propagation of rhinoviruses was obtained. Typing sera for several respiratory viruses including rhinoviruses is now available for use.

A preliminary program for determining the etiology of viral respiratory illnesses and gathering basic epidemiologic information on transmission of respiratory viruses was begun in February 1967. Patients studied were children under 12 years of age coming to the MCH Clinic, Din Dang with upper respiratory infections. Clinical history throat and rectal swabs for virus isolation, and acute and convalescent sera were obtained on five patients each week. Virus isolation was attempted using four types of cell culture human embryonic kidney, human embryonic lung, Hela, and BS-C-1. Cell cultures were observed for CPE and tested for hemadsorption. At the time of this report isolation attempts have been completed on 34 patients. CPE producing viruses have been recovered from 12 of the 34 patients but have not yet been identified.

It is planned to continue this program for at least one year to obtain preliminary observations on seasonal patterns of respiratory virus transmission in Bangkok.