

Pasteurella pestis Infection in Humans.

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OBJECTIVE: To determine extent of inapparent Pasteurella pestis infection in humans.

DESCRIPTION: According to description given for this report for the period 1 April 1968 to 31 March 1969 residents of Nha Trang in high risk areas who had been bled in January 1969 indicated they would submit to a second bleeding the following May.

PROGRESS: During December 1968 and January 1969, 113 sera were collected, mostly from school children aged 13 through 18, in the city of Nha Trang. Of 28 sera from non-immunized individuals, 9 positives (32.1%) were demonstrated (hemagglutination test) while 26 positive sera (36.1%) were demonstrated from 72 individuals who had received immunization. Thirteen individuals were uncertain as to their immunization status. Sera from 18 of the original 113 individuals were obtained 4 to 8 weeks later. On testing these 18 sera for plague antibody, the one positive sera remained positive, while two individuals converted from sero-negative to sero-positive in the absence of overt clinical disease or immunization.

These observations suggest that naturally occurring, sub-clinical plague infections might be one mechanism for the decline of apparent urban plague, by the process of natural immunization.

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