

## Cholera Study at Samutsongkram

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**OBJECTIVE:** To investigate the carrier state of cholera in apparently healthy persons.

**BACKGROUND:** According to the data presented in 1974 by the Ministry of Public Health, cholera has occurred throughout the year in 33 of the 71 provinces. This gives the impression that cholera might have become endemic in some areas of Thailand. Most patients with cholera are free of *V. cholerae* within two weeks and there appears to be no true carrier state. It is suspected, however, that direct man to man infection might play an important role in spreading the disease.

Samutsongkram was selected as a study site because the first case of the cholera "season" (late cool dry to early hot dry seasons) has usually been reported from that area.

**DESCRIPTION:** An attempt has been made to isolate *V. cholerae* from apparently healthy persons in Samutsongkram and also from patients recovering from cholera. Water samples were collected from the nearby river and were subject to similar isolation attempts.

An attempt has also been made to isolate *V. cholerae* from the stools of patients convalescing from diseases other than diarrhea, after receiving a cholagogue (Veracolate).

**PROGRESS:** The number of stool and water specimens collected between June 1974 and March 1975 and the results of the isolation attempts are shown in Table 1.

**DISCUSSION:** It was rather difficult to follow the patients convalescing from cholera at home in order to get the stool specimens for re-examination. Lack of cooperation of the patient was also a problem. It is too early yet to draw any conclusion from the data collected so far.

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Table 1. Cholera Study (Samutsongkram)

Month Year	Fecal Specimens						Water Specimens		
	Healthy Persons			Convalescent Patients			No. <i>V. cholerae</i> NAG		
	No. <i>V. cholerae</i> NAG <sup>a</sup>			No. <i>V. cholerae</i> NAG					
June 1974	102	0	3 (3) <sup>b</sup>				5	0	5
July	103	0	2 (2)	44	0	0	6	0	6
August	143	0	7 (5)	87	0	5 (6)	8	0	8
September	144	0	9 (7)	47	0	9 (20)	6	0	6
October	134	0	20 (15)	65	0	7 (10)	0	0	0
November	113	0	3 (3)	67	0	3 (5)	0	0	0
December	102	0	13 (13)	61	0	3 (5)	0	0	0
January 1975	121	0	43 (35)	66	0	20 (3)	4	0	4
February	97	0	31 (30)	56	0	10 (20)	7	0	7
March	98	3 <sup>c</sup>	27 (27)	67	0	3 (5)	8	0	8

a. Non-agglutinable vibrios.

b. Number positive (percent).

c. *V. cholerae*, biotype Eltor, Serotype Ogawa (Contact cases suspected).