

Isolation of Influenza Viruses from Residents of
Bangkok, Thailand, 1976-1977

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OBJECTIVE : To isolate and identify influenza viruses from patients with acute upper respiratory illness.

BACKGROUND : Surveillance of the human population for influenza viruses has proven to be very effective for predicting and combating epidemics caused by these viruses. This report consists of a summary of the isolations of influenza viruses obtained from patients who exhibited clinical signs and symptoms of upper respiratory illness during July 1976 through September 1977.

METHODS : Throat washings were obtained from patients with acute upper respiratory tract infections. Specimens were inoculated into the amniotic sac of nine to ten days old embryonated chicken eggs and/or onto monolayers of primary monkey kidney cell cultures. Techniques for the isolation and identification of viruses followed published methods (1). Briefly, virus isolation attempts were conducted by hemagglutination tests employing 0.5% chicken red blood cells and/or by hemadsorption tests using 0.4% guinea pig red blood cells. Antisera were prepared for virus isolates and prototype influenza strains in roosters. Subtypes of influenza virus isolates were identified by hemagglutination-inhibition tests using reference antisera.

RESULTS : During 1976 four viruses that caused hemagglutination of red blood cells were isolated from 21 specimens. The subtype of these four isolates were shown to be closely related to A/Victoria/1975. One of 35 specimens taken from patients with upper respiratory illness during 1977 one yielded an influenza-like virus. Studies are in progress to identify this isolate.

Isolates were forwarded to Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, to the CDC in Atlanta and/or to the WHO reference center in London for confirmation of identification.

REFERENCE :

1. Robinson, R.Q., and Dawdle, W.R., 1969. Influenza viruses. Pages 414-433 in Lennette, E.H. and Schmidt, N.J., eds. Diagnostic Procedure for Viral and Rickettsial Infections, 4th edition. American Public Health Association, Inc., New York.