

Rotavirus Cluster and Machang District Experience

Sahrol Nizam AB, Mohd Firdaus M, Mohd Azizul, Mursyida, Zolnaidi

Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah Machang, Kelantan

ABSTRACT:

Introduction: Rotavirus infection seldom being reported in Malaysia. It was a common cause of diarrhoea among children less than five years old. The common presentations were diarrhoea and vomiting. Hence, they were often diagnosed as Acute Gastroenteritis.

Methodology: A notification received from the Government Hospital. An investigation was carried out to identify the causative agent for the outbreak and furthermore to control the outbreak. A cross-sectional study was done using interviewed method. A case definition for this outbreak was a children who attended Taska with acute onset of vomiting and or diarrhoea from 18th May 2022 onwards. Stool samples were sent to the laboratory for confirmations.

Results: The attacked rate was 25% (29 cases/115 persons were exposed). The symptoms were diarrhoea (90%), fever (66%), nausea and vomiting (59%), abdominal pain (20%) and lethargy (7%). All cases ere not vaccinated for Rotavirus. Rotavirus was detected as the causative agents in four samples taken .

Discussion: The causative agent Rotavirus was identified. The outbreak was controlled by active case detections, isolation, health education and closure of the Taska for cleaning and disinfection. High index of suspicion was needed among medical practitioner to diagnosed Rotavirus infection among children aged less than 5 years old with acute gastroenteritis symptoms with unknown food source. Need to consider for Rotavirus vaccination among children age less than 5 years old.

KEYWORDS: Acute Gastroenteritis, Rotavirus, Diarrhoea, Vomiting, Taska