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BACTERIAL NASOPHARYNGEAL CARRIAGE: PREVALENCE OF RESPIRATORY PATHOGENS AMONG MEXICAN CHILD CARE CENTERS

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This study analyses the frequency of pathogenic bacteria in the respiratory tracts of healthy children from 12 states of Mexico. Respiratory tract colonization has been known to be a dynamic process in the host, frequently eliminating and acquiring new species. Certain bacteria are isolated from asymptomatic individuals, but are often a common cause of respiratory infections and severe invasive diseases, such as S.pyogenes, M.catharralis, H. Influenzae and greater importance S. pneumoniae, with morbility and mortality rates, mainly occurring in pediatric ages. A total of 3144 children between 2-60 months old from a Day Care Centers in the states of DF, Estado Mexico, Hidalgo, Veracruz, SL Potosi, Guadalajara, Guanajuato, Monterrey, Michoacán, Tamaulipas Oaxaca and BajaCalifornia, were included in the study. Nasopharingeal exudates samples were obtained from all the children. The samples were processed in the laboratory following standard methods for identifying bacterial. Of the 3144 nasopharyngeal samples cultured: normal bacterial floras was seen in 34% of the children (1067/3144) and in 66% (2077/3144) of the children with at least one pathogenic bacterial isolated. Of these, M. catarrahalis represented 41% (1,303/2077) of the isolates, S.penumoniae 29% (918/2077), H. Influenzae 22% (677/2077) and S.pyogenes 1% (19/2077). Colonized children and infants serving as a reservoir for the dissemination of highly virulent strains. Results show the need for certain population to adopt close epidemiologic surveillance methods within their pediatric population in order to assess risk factors, monitor the prevalence of these pathogens in nasopharyngeal carriers and their implication in infectious processes.