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GASTROENTERITIS IN CRETE: A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY OF THE CLINICAL AND LABORATORY FINDINGS

I. Charoniti, V. Aggelakou, A. Pasiou, Mi. Papadimas, H. Kokori, **A. Christaki**
Paediatrics Department, Venizelio Hospital, Iraklio-Crete, Greece
tsilimig@otenet.gr

The aim of our study was to compare the clinical and laboratory findings between rotavirus gastroenteritis and gastroenteritis due to other agents. Methods: 139 children of mean age of 29.5 months \pm 27,3 SD hospitalised between September 2002 and March 2003 were included in the study. Results: In 32% of children Rotavirus antigen was detected in the stools. 21% had positive stool cultures for bacteria and in 47% neither rotavirus antigen nor a pathogen was isolated. The laboratory findings checked were: Full blood count, ESR, CRP, Electrolytes, Urea, Transaminases, Microscopic examination of stools. Clinical findings checked were: signs of severity of dehydration and fever. Among the three groups there were no statistical significant differences regarding nor the clinical and laboratory findings neither the length of stay ($p > 0.1$). In conclusion as the clinical and laboratory findings are the same regardless the cause of gastroenteritis, detection of Rotavirus antigen is important to determine the causative agent of diarrhea.

