

## EPIDEMIOLOGY OF YERSINIA ENTEROCOLITICA INFECTION IN CRETE

**E. Giannoussi**<sup>1</sup>, E. Galanakis<sup>1</sup>, S. Maraki<sup>2</sup>, I. Maniadaki<sup>1</sup>, Y. Tselentis<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Department of Paediatrics* <sup>2</sup>*Department of Clinical Bacteriology-Parasitology-Zoonoses and Geographical Medicine, University Hospital of Heraklion, Crete, Greece*  
[gianieli@otenet.gr](mailto:gianieli@otenet.gr)

**Background.** The epidemiology of *Yersinia enterocolitica* infection was reviewed in children in Crete over a long period.

**Methods.** All cases of children aged less than 14 years with cultures positive for *Y. enterocolitica* during the 10-year period 1993 through 2002 were included.

**Results.** Among 1,142 cases of culture-proven bacterial enteritis in children, 64 (5.6%) were caused by *Y. enterocolitica*. Children presented with an increased proportional frequency as compared to adults (5.6% vs 1.8%; relative risk 3.08, 95% CI 1.84 to 5.15;  $p \leq 0.001$ ). *Y. enterocolitica* was the fourth common bacterial pathogen, following *Salmonellae* spp., *Campylobacter* spp., and EPEC. Cases were noted all through the study period, mostly (51.5%) during November, December and January. A clear history of exposure to any potential source was not elicited. The male: female ratio was 1.2:1. Three children had a history of iron overload. All 64 isolates were resistant to ampicillin and all were susceptible to third generation cephalosporins, gentamycin and the quinolones. Resistance to chloramphenicol and tetracycline was rare. All obtained blood cultures were negative. All children had an excellent outcome, regardless of antibiotic treatment.

**Conclusions.** *Y. enterocolitica* is a considerable cause of enteritis in children in Crete, especially during winter. A certain risk factor was not demonstrated. Bacteraemia or complications were not noted and outcome was excellent.

