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Antibiotic susceptibility pattern of *Salmonella* isolated from enteric fever suspected patients

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Background: Enteric fever is one of the most common diseases encountered worldwide and is endemic in Nepal. This study was conducted to access antibiotic susceptibility pattern of *Salmonella* isolates from culture positive cases of enteric fever.

Methods: Altogether 505 blood samples were collected from patients clinically suspected of enteric fever attending HAMS Hospital. All blood samples were cultured by BACTEC method and sub cultured in blood agar and MacConkey agar plates. All isolates were identified by colony characteristics, biochemical tests and serotyping methods. Antibiotic susceptibility test was performed by modified Kirby Bauer disc diffusion method interpreted with CLSI guideline.

Result: Isolation rate of *Salmonella* species was 3.6%. Among 18 *Salmonella* isolates, 10 were *S. typhi*, 8 were *S. paratyphi* A. The prevalence rate of infection was high among the age group 11-20 years (50%) and among the male patients. However, there was no significant association of enteric fever with gender of patients ($p=2.47$). All 18 isolates were sensitive to Amoxicillin, Azithromycin, Ceftriaxone and Chloramphenicol, Ciprofloxacin and Ofloxacin. Majority of isolates were sensitive to Cefixime (94.4%), Cotrimoxazole (94.4%) and Cefotaxime (90%). There were no any MDR isolates. Higher percentage of isolates was resistant to Nalidixic acid (87.5%).

Conclusion: The decreased susceptibility to Fluoroquinolones of *S. typhi* and *S. paratyphi* A can be correlated with resistance to Nalidixic acid. Commonly used third generation Cephalosporins and rolled back first line drugs are the choice in case of NARS isolates.

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