

Aims and Objectives

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This study was carried out with the following aims and objectives:-

1. To determine the incidence of Group A beta hemolytic Streptococcal pharyngitis among selected urban and rural school children.
2. To evaluate rapid antigen detection assay of the throat swabs from school children with acute pharyngitis.
3. To estimate antistreptolysin O antibody levels in culture proven pharyngitic cases.
4. To determine colonization of upper respiratory tract, of children with acute respiratory infection, by *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and *Haemophilus influenzae* among those attending as outpatients to selected primary health centres, Government General Hospital of Pondicherry and others requiring hospitalization.
5. To document the antimicrobial susceptibility pattern of *S.pneumoniae*, *H.influenzae*, GABHS, and *Moraxella catarrhalis* isolated from the throat and nasopharynx of children with ARI, and to determine the minimum inhibitory

concentrations of various antibiotics for these organisms, with a view to detect the extent of circulation of resistant strains among ARI cases.

6. To determine the serotype distributions of *H.influenzae* in the upper respiratory tract of cases of ARI, and healthy controls.
7. To correlate serum bactericidal activity with history of prior antibiotic therapy and their effects on the outcome of blood culture in children with ALRI.
8. To evaluate various antigen detection assays with a view to rapidly confirm the diagnosis of ALRI.