# ROLE OF ENTERIC ADENOVIRUSES IN PEDIATRIC GASTROENTERITIS

#### Essay ubmitted for Partial Fullfilment of

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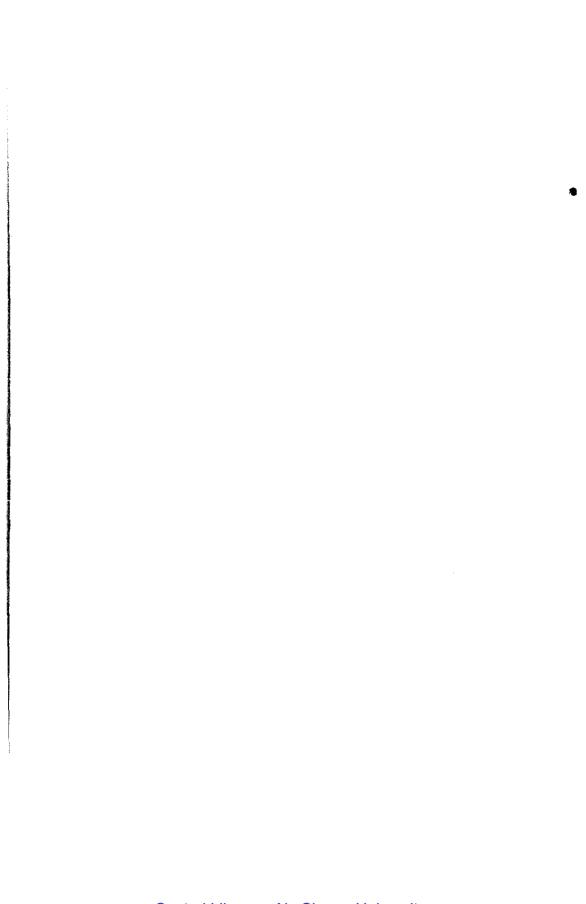
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# INTRODUCTION AND AIM OF THE STUDY



#### INTRODUCTION AND AIM OF THE STUDY

#### Introduction:

Rota viruses and Adenoviruses are the main aetiological pathogens of gastroenteritis (*Dupuis et al.*, 1995).

Enteric Adenoviruses (EAds) serotypes Ad40 and Ad41 of subgenus F have been established as causative agents of gastroenteritis (*Yamashita et al.*, 1995).

Adenoviruses are relatively more important as causes of viral gastroenteritis in infants aged less than 6 months than in infants aged 12 months or more. But even in young infants, more Rotavirus than Adenovirus infections were diagnosed (*Bates et al.*, 1993). However, *Yamashita et al.* (1995), concluded that EAds were detected most frequently from the children aged 0-3 years.

Shears and Wright (1995), found that Adenovirus infections are most common in summer. The clinical characteristics include watery diarrhea accompanied by vomiting, abdominal pain, low grade fever and mild dehydration.

A distinct feature of EAds infection is the protracted diarrhea with mean of 8.6 and 12.2 days for Ad40 and Ad41, respectively. These symptoms are significantly similar to symptoms of infants infected with group A Rotavirus (Jarecki-Khan et al., 1993).

Serotypes Ad40 and Ad41 differ from all other Adenoviruses by being unable to replicate in conventional cell

cultures. These fastidious viruses only grow in selected cell lines, 293 cells of HEK, being the most commonly used. These viruses can be directly identified and typed by ELISA and immune electron microscopy. The amount of viral DNA in stool specimens is sufficient for identification by DNA restriction and dot blot assays. The recent development of highly sensitive and specific monoclonal antibody based ELISAs enable accurate diagnosis of Adenovirus gastroenteritis (*Uhnoo et al.*, 1990).

#### Aim of the Study

The present study aims to highlight the importance of Adenoviruses as causative agents in gastroenteritis in children.