

Table 1. Clinical characteristics of 143 patients with cholera

Characteristic	Patients, no. (%)	
	Male	Female
Age (years)		
<10	30 (21)	28 (20)
10-19	56 (39)	53 (38)
20-29	50 (35)	50 (36)
30-39	5 (3)	15 (11)
40-49	5 (3)	8 (6)
≥50	2 (1)	5 (4)
Mean (s.d.)	22.5 (13.7)	23.3 (13.8)
Duration of illness (days)		
<2	6 (4)	4 (3)
2-3	30 (21)	24 (17)
4-5	59 (41)	59 (42)
6-10	44 (30)	35 (25)
>10	1 (0.7)	1 (0.7)
Mean (s.d.)	4.9 (3.3)	4.8 (3.4)
Severity		
Mild	113 (79)	112 (80)
Severe	25 (17)	21 (15)
Unknowable	5 (3)	10 (7)
Dehydration (%)		
<2	113 (79)	113 (80)
3-6	25 (17)	21 (15)
>6	5 (3)	10 (7)
Dehydration		
None	113 (79)	112 (80)
Mild	25 (17)	21 (15)
Severe	5 (3)	10 (7)
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None	113 (79)	112 (80)
Mild	25 (17)	21 (15)
Severe	5 (3)	10 (7)

of cholera in Bangladesh, in particular in the south-eastern coastal region, in the immediate aftermath of the 2005 tsunami. The purpose of the present study was to identify and characterise *V. cholerae* O1 strains in Bangladesh in the context of the 2005 tsunami.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study area

The study was carried out in the coastal region of Bangladesh, where 68% of the population lives in

urban areas. It is a densely populated country, with a population of 140 million people in 2005, and a population density of 1200 people/km².

The study area is the coastal region of Bangladesh, which is the most densely populated region of the country. It covers 28000 km² and is home to 20 million people. The region is a delta formed by the confluence of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers into the Bay of Bengal.

After the tsunami on 26 December 2005, the coastal region of Bangladesh was severely affected. The tsunami caused the death of 80000 people and 10 million people were displaced. The tsunami also caused extensive damage to infrastructure, including roads, bridges and buildings. The tsunami also caused extensive damage to the environment, including the destruction of mangrove forests and the contamination of water sources. The tsunami also caused extensive damage to the economy, including the destruction of fishing boats and the loss of livelihoods. The tsunami also caused extensive damage to the health care system, including the destruction of health centres and the loss of health care workers. The tsunami also caused extensive damage to the education system, including the destruction of schools and the loss of teachers. The tsunami also caused extensive damage to the social structure, including the destruction of community centres and the loss of social networks.

The present study was conducted in the coastal region of Bangladesh, where the tsunami had caused extensive damage to infrastructure, including roads, bridges and buildings. The study was conducted in the coastal region of Bangladesh, where the tsunami had caused extensive damage to infrastructure, including roads, bridges and buildings.

Study population

The study population consisted of patients with cholera who were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Dhaka, Bangladesh, between 1 January 2006 and 31 December 2006. The patients were recruited from the emergency department of the hospital.

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