

A B S T R A C T

Studies in other countries have shown that the parainfluenza viruses play an important role in respiratory disease especially among infants and children. Serologic evidence of infection with parainfluenza three was found to be widespread reaching up to 90% in children and 100% in adults.

This study, conducted in Trinidad, W.I. shows that the parainfluenza viruses are not the major cause of respiratory disease in that country. Serological tests, hemagglutination inhibition, neutralization tests and complement fixation tests show that the incidence of antibody in Trinidad is much lower than that in other countries of temperate climate.

Parainfluenza 1, 2, and 3 viruses were isolated from cases of respiratory disease during the course of the study but no epidemics caused by these viruses was seen. That is, no real increase of respiratory disease reflected in increased admissions to hospital or attendance at clinics was seen that could be traced to parainfluenza virus infections. These viruses seem to be the sporadic cause of respiratory disease in Trinidad. The incidence seems to be spaced over a period of months in a given year.