

Leptospirosis: Epidemiology, Diagnosis, and Control

Madhu Sharma, M.D.,
Aparna Yadav, M.D.

ABSTRACT

Leptospirosis is a worldwide emerging zoonosis caused by the spirochete of the genus *Leptospira* affecting humans and animals; humans are incidental hosts. The determinants of incidence and prevalence are the suitability of the environment for the survival of the organism and the behavioral and occupational habits of human beings. The diagnosis of leptospirosis is as elusive as it was when it was first recognized. An isolation of organism from clinical specimens is still difficult, and serological techniques remain the cornerstone of diagnosis. There is a need to further unravel the pathogenesis of leptospirosis and to develop effective cross-protective recombinant vaccines. (*J Infect Dis Antimicrob Agents* 2008;25:93-103.)

*Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology, Pt. B.D. Sharma PGIMS, Rohtak, Haryana, India.

**Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology, Pt. B.D. Sharma PGIMS, Rohtak, Haryana, India.

Received for publication: March 30, 2008.

Reprint request: Dr. Madhu Sharma, Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology, Pt. B.D. Sharma PGIMS, Rohtak, Haryana, India.

E-mail: madhusharma71@rediffmail.com

Keywords: Leptospirosis, epidemiology, pathogenesis, clinical features, diagnosis, control, treatment