

Original Research Article

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## Sero-Prevalence of Dengue in Tertiary Care Hospital in Delhi

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### ABSTRACT

#### Keywords

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and  
NS1 antigen.

#### Article Info

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This retrospective study was done in year 2015 to find out the seroprevalence of dengue IgM antibody and NS1 antigen positivity, in a tertiary care hospital in New Delhi, India. Blood samples from clinically suspected dengue cases admitted in the Medicine and Paediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynaecology departments of a tertiary care hospital were collected. Samples from fever cases <5 days duration were tested for dengue NS1 antigen employing Pan Bio (Australia) NS1 ELISA kit. Serum samples of  $\geq 5$  days fever were tested for dengue-specific IgM by MAC ELISA test kit prepared by the National Institute of Virology Pune. Results of the 3163 samples tested, 646 (20.4 %) were positive for dengue IgM. Majority (47.86 %) of cases were detected in the month of Aug-Nov. The most common affected age group was 11 to 30 yr with female preponderance. 265 were tested positive by IgM Elisa (M-126, 47.5%, F-139, 52.4%) and 381 by NS1 Ag Elisa (M-163, 42.7%, F-218, (57.2%). Total number of male patients was 1266 and female patients were 1897. Rapid increase in the dengue cases in 2015 became a public health concern as majority of cases were affecting the young adolescents and adults. Most of the cases were reported in monsoon and post-monsoon periods indicating increased vector transmission

### Introduction

Dengue viruses (DV) belong to the family Flaviviridae, and there are four serotypes of the virus referred to as DV-1, DV-2, DV-3, and DV-4. It is transmitted mainly by *Aedes aegypti* mosquito and also by *A. albopictus*. DV is a positive-stranded encapsulated RNA virus and is composed of three structural protein genes, which encode the nucleocapsid or core (C) protein, a membrane-associated (M) protein, an enveloped (E) glycoprotein, and seven nonstructural (NS) proteins.

(Bandyopadhyay *et al.*, 2013). Dengue is a complex disease with a wide spectrum of clinical presentation following the period of incubation, most patients experience a sudden onset of fever which can remain for 2–7 days and is often accompanied with symptoms such as myalgia, arthralgia, anorexia, sore throat, headaches, and a macular skin rash. It is during this period that differentiating dengue from other febrile diseases proves troublesome. The majority of people experience a self-limiting clinical

course, which does not progress to the severe forms of dengue, dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF), or dengue shock syndrome (DSS). Secondary dengue infections or particularly virulent viral strains are two factors thought to be associated with increased risk of severity (Gubler, 2011). In severe cases, thrombocytopenia and increased vascular permeability can result in hemorrhagic and shock complications. Currently, neither a vaccine nor specific antiviral therapy exists (Wilder-Smith *et al.*, 2011). However, with prompt case detection and appropriate clinical management, including initiation of intravenous rehydration, the case fatality of severe dengue can be lower than 1%. At present, due to a lack of available treatment, control of dengue focuses on effective vector control methods, which are limited (Gibbons *et al.*, 2002) DV causes subclinical infection to a mild self-limiting disease, the dengue fever (DF), a severe disease that maybe fatal, and the dengue haemorrhagic fever/dengue shock syndrome (DHF/DSS).

In 2012, dengue was classified by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the 'most important mosquito-borne viral disease in the world. Due to significant geographic spread of the virus and its vector into previously unaffected areas and the subsequent costly burden of disease it brings IgM antibody is the first immunoglobulin isotype to appear. In a suspected case of dengue, the presence of antidengue IgM antibody suggests recent infection. Anti-dengue IgM detection using enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) represents one of the most important advances and has become an invaluable tool for routine dengue diagnosis. Specifically, MAC ELISA (IgM antibody capture ELISA) diagnosis is based on detecting dengue-specific IgM (Vaughn *et al.*, 2000)

## Materials and Methods

The Blood samples were collected from clinically suspected acute dengue fever cases (fever < 4 days). Suspected cases of dengue were defined as individuals who presented with symptoms of dengue fever and warning sign. The latter symptoms included the following : decrease in platelet count, vomiting, mucosal bleeding, lethargy, weak pulse rate, hypotension. The study was conducted between January-December 2015 in Department of Microbiology at Tertiary care Hospital in Delhi. The samples were screened for the presence of dengue-specific IgM antibody capture enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (MAC-ELISA), using a kit prepared by the National Institute of virology, Pune, India, (as an integral part of the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme), strictly following the manufacturer's protocol (Cecilia, 2011). NS1 Ag was detected in the sera by PanBio NS1Ag ELISA kit. Haematological parameters (leucocyte count, Hb and platelet count) of dengue positive patients were also observed and correlated.

## Results and Discussion

Total of 3163 sera samples were tested and dengue positive were 646 (20.4%) samples. 265 were tested positive by IgM Elisa (M-126, 47.5% F-139, 52.4%) and 381 by NS1 Ag Elisa (M-163, 42.7%, F-218, (57.2%). Total number of male patients were 1266 and female patients were 1897.

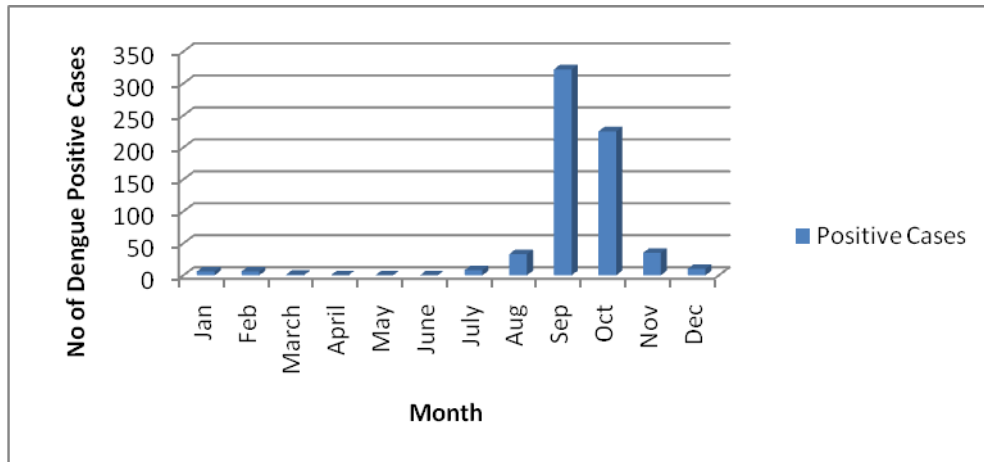
Fig2 and 3 shows distribution of the number of the dengue cases in various age groups in either sex for NS1Ag and IgM tests respectively. It clearly shows that the highest number of cases belonged to the age group 11-30 year and females clearly outnumbered males.

As the outbreak of dengue mainly occurred in the months of August to November in 2015. Fig 4 shows the weekly distribution of cases was reported from the 1<sup>st</sup> week of September to almost mid-October for both seromarkers of dengue (IgM and NS1 antigen).

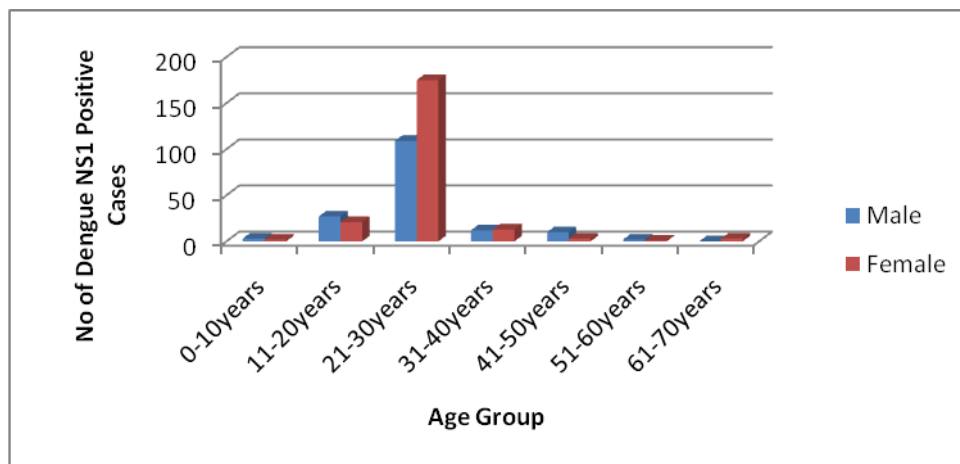
Fig1 month wise distribution of the total dengue cases in year 2015. The highest number of cases were recorded during the monsoon and post monsoon periods. The number of affected cases declined with the onset of winter. Fig 5 shows location wise

distribution of dengue cases in Delhi and NCR. Dengue is one of the re-emerging viral infections. India witnesses dengue fever outbreak every year. There has been a considerable increase in the geographic spread, number of cases and severity of the disease in the past four decades. Reason may be there is drastic change in the environment due to rapid urbanization and increase in transportation facilities in several parts of India. Delhi has had several outbreaks of dengue caused by various dengue virus types in 1967,1970,1982,1988 and 1996 (Dar, 2006).

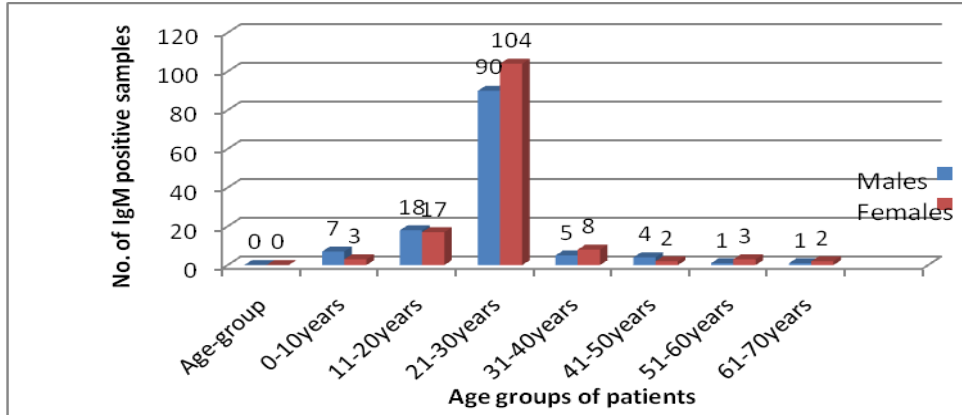
**Fig.1** Monthly distribution of dengue positive cases



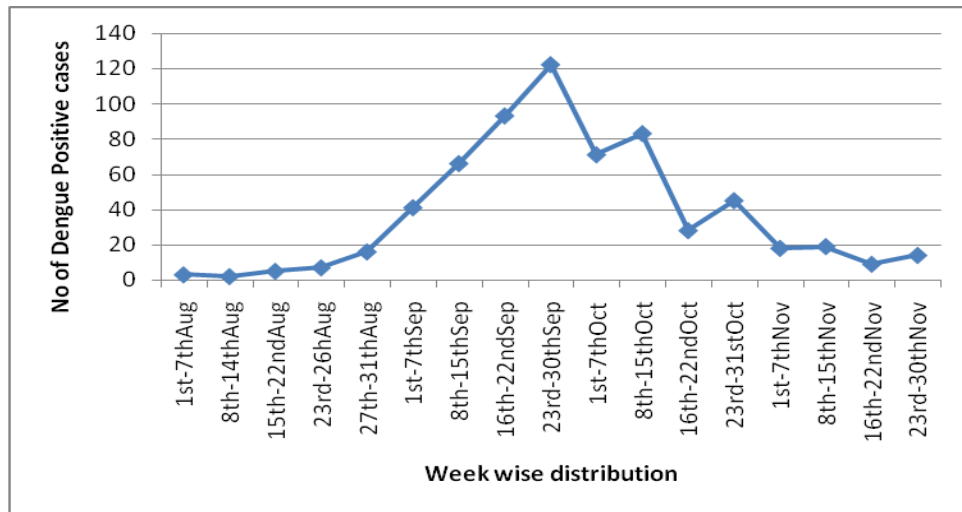
**Fig.2** Showing NS1 positivity at different age Group and Gender .



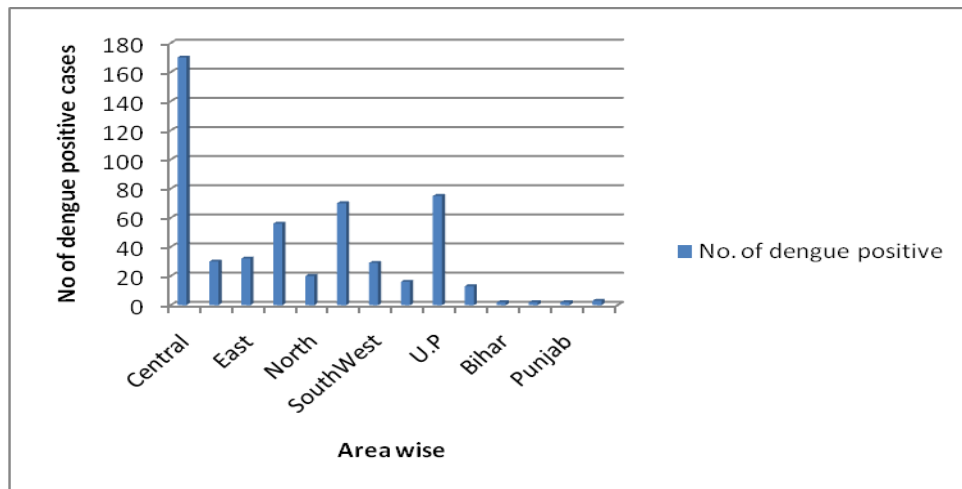
**Fig.3** Showing IgM positivity at different Age Group and Gender



**Fig.4** Shows Week wise distribution of dengue positive cases.



**Fig.5** Area wise distribution of Dengue Positive cases.



In present study, 20.4% (646) of the suspected cases were found serologically positive for dengue. The remaining 79.6% cases were serologically negative for dengue. Those patients might be suffering from other illnesses like Malaria, Chikungunya, Measles, rubella. In our study, the highest number of cases belonged to the age group 11-30 year and females clearly outnumbered males which was in concordance with Gupta *et al.*, and Kumaria *et al* study which also showed maximum cases in age group of 21-30 years but with male preponderance. The young adults getting more affected reflects the presence of non-immune adult population falling prey to the circulating serotype of dengue virus. Another reason could be these young adults involved in more of outdoor activities, more exposed for mosquito bites.

Sarkar *et al.*, however, reported maximum cases in the age group 0-10 years with female preponderance. Concordance study, was also observed by Chakravarti *et al.*, who found highest seropositivity for dengue in female gender for both NS1 antigen and IgM Elisa. Higher prevalence among females might be due to their more outdoor activities when compared to males, resulting in more exposure to day-time biting mosquitoes (Madhulika *et al.*, 2013). The vector mosquitoes (*Aedes* sp.) are mainly domestic and peridomestic in nature and females/house wives have a greater chance of exposure to mosquito bites. The lower case positivity rates in males may be attributed to lower reporting rate. However, contrasting results were reported by Agarwal *et al.*, and wali *et al*, found twice number of male patients as compared to female patients.

In present study, the majority of the cases were reported during the monsoon and post monsoon seasons, which indicated an active viral transmission during monsoon and postmonsoon season. *Aedes aegypti* vector

mosquito which breeds during the rainy season and continues to reproduce and add to its number usually till the winter season.

The maximum dengue positive cases were observed from the 1<sup>st</sup> week of September to almost mid-October for both seromarkers of dengue.

According to areawise, the majority of dengue positive cases were reported from Central Delhi (paharganj, Nabikarim, rajendernagar etc) followed by West Delhi and South West Delhi. Few dengue positive cases were also reported from Gaziabad, Faridabad, Punjab and Gurgoan in our study. Since there is increase in urbanization, increase travel among people to Central Delhi in need of better job facilities and trades, might be responsible for spread of the disease.

Since there is no specific drug and vaccine available and treatment is only supportive. Therefore control measures to stop vector and disease is extremely important. As most of the cases reported during the postmonsoon period, continue and coordinated efforts should be made to control the transmission of vector and prevent the outbreak. A long term serosurveillance study may help to provide more information about the intensity, seasonal incidence and seasonal effect.

In conclusion, rapid increase in the dengue cases in 2015 became a public health concern as majority of cases were affecting the young adolescents and adults. Most of the cases were reported in monsoon and post-monsoon periods indicating increased vector transmission.

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