

# Prospective study of *Campylobacter jejuni* infection in Chilean infants evaluated by culture and serology

Figueroa,

Galeno,

Troncoso,

Toledo,

Soto,

A prospective study of *Campylobacter jejuni* infection was performed during a 6-month period in a cohort of 198 Chilean infants. Surveillance was based on biweekly home visits by a team of trained nurses. *C. jejuni* colonization was studied by culturing stool samples from diarrheal episodes and paired asymptomatic controls and by performing an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay developed to measure *C. jejuni* outer membrane protein polyvalent antibodies in a representative group of infants. *C. jejuni* was isolated from 30 of 299 diarrheal episodes (10%) and from 17 of 304 samples from asymptomatic infants (6%). Significantly higher ( $P < 0.05$ ) *C. jejuni* illness/infection ratios were found in infants less than 9 months old. Polyvalent antibodies to *C. jejuni* were found in 27 of 89 serum samples (30%). The lowest prevalence (4%) was observed among infants less than 9 months old, and the highest was found in patients older than 15 months (63%;  $P < 0.01$ ). Data obtained by analysis of paired seru