

# Hemolytic uremic syndrome associated to shigatoxin producing Escherichia coli in Chilean children: Clinical and epidemiological aspects

## Síndrome hemolítico urémico asociado a infección intestinal por Escherichia coli productora de shigatoxina (STEC) en pa

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Clinical and epidemiological aspects of shigatoxin producing E. coli (STEC) infections and hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS) are reviewed. Surveillance results from 14 sentinel centers during 2000-2002 showed a mean incidence rate of 3.4 HUS cases per 100.000 children, with the highest incidence in the 6 to 28 month age group. Disease is endemic with summer peaks. Between 1988 and 2002 we obtained the clinical characteristics of a group of 119 HUS children with the following results: mean age 16 months, bloody diarrhea 57.8%, no previous diarrhea 9%, 60% received antibiotics, 72% had oligoanuria, 53% required dialysis, 15% had seizures and 31% had dizziness; mortality was 3%. Four foodborne outbreaks have been detected in Santiago, two outbreaks

occurred in household settings, one in a Day Care Center and one in a Neonatal Unit.

Recommendations for diagnosis, treatment and prevention of STEC infections, including potential vaccines are discussed.