



PREVALENCE OF ASYMPTOMATIC TYPHOID IN OBANLIKU LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF CROSS RIVER STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The morbidity, mortality, and economic burden of typhoid worldwide is alarming, and has been reported to spread by consumption of contaminated foods. The contamination is mostly from faeces of persons who have unsuspected subclinical disease (carriers or asymptomatic). This study sought to find out the prevalence of asymptomatic typhoid (carriers) in Obanliku and how gender influences the prevalence of asymptomatic typhoid. The quantitative cross-sectional survey design was employed. The sample comprised 402 people randomly selected by the multistage sampling technique from about 103,000 people of Obanliku. Stool samples from the sampled individuals were streaked on Salmonella-Shigella (SS) Agar plates, prepared according to the manufacturer's instructions. The plates were incubated at 37° C and observed after 24 hr. Colonies that were colorless with black centers were presumed as *Salmonella* and confirmed by using slide agglutination with positive control Salmonella antiserum. The subjects were also observed by the research assistant who was a medical personnel for signs and symptoms of typhoid fever. Those whose stools were positive for *Salmonella* but showed no sign/symptom of typhoid were considered asymptomatic carriers. The data collected were analysed using percentages and chi-square. Results obtained indicated that out of the 402 people screened, 45 (11.2 %) were asymptomatic carriers and that asymptomatic status was significantly associated with gender ($P < 0.05$) with the prevalence being more in females. It is recommended that mass screening and treatment of both typhoid cases and carriers should be carried out. Females should be urged to improve on their personal hygiene since they are more likely to be carriers and are more involved in food handlings.

Keywords: Prevalence, asymptomatic, typhoid, *Salmonella*, carriers.

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