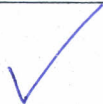


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A.W.M.K. Bandara,¹
M.M. Weerasekara¹
K.N.P. Ranasinghe²
C. Marasinghe³
S.S.N. Fernando¹

Affiliation

- 1 – Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka
- 2 – Consultant Physician, Base Hospital Tangalle, Sri Lanka
- 3- Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka

Introduction

Leptospirosis is a major public health problem in Sri Lanka. Clinical presentation of leptospirosis has been shown to vary in different geographical locations and outbreaks, which could be associated with the infecting strain. Further differential diagnosis in a resource poor setting is challenging. Due to the highly endemic nature of the disease, and associated morbidity and mortality it is important to investigate the molecular epidemiology at different time frames and the usefulness of rapid diagnostic testing in a resource poor setting.