

Abstract

In a 5-month study of *Salmonella* septicaemias in Kenyan children carried out during the annual peak infection period, *Salmonella typhimurium* septicaemias occurred seven times more frequently than typhoid or other non-typhoid infections. *Salmonella typhimurium* infections were predominantly community acquired, malnourished infants from rural malaria endemic areas with poor water supply were especially vulnerable. Typical clinical features of fever, diarrhoea, and severe anaemia resembled *P. falciparum* malaria which often co-existed. Mortality was 18 per cent. Isolates exhibited a wide range of multidrug resistance. Typhoid affected older children, was less severe and drug sensitive.