

SAPNA Newsletter



SAPNA, the Sanskrit word meaning “Dream” is the acronym for the “South Asian Pneumococcal Alliance”. This project is a multi country project funded by the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) through the pneumococcal vaccine Accelerated Development and Implementation Program (ADIP).

The goal of the alliance is to learn details of pneumococcal disease to improve the care of children and to allow effective treatment and prevention.

Objectives

- To generate local epidemiological data in South Asia on invasive pneumococcal disease
 - ✚ Serotype distribution, for prevention
 - ✚ Antimicrobial resistance, for treatment
- To strengthen local capacity for surveillance of vaccine preventable diseases.
- To assist development of national policy for control of pneumococcal disease

The project is mediated through a consortium of institutions, the International Clinical Epidemiology Network (INCLIN), and Johns Hopkins University, in collaboration with study centers in teaching tertiary hospitals in South Asian countries. The project will carry out surveillance of childhood pneumococcal disease in Nepal, and Sri Lanka, following the model of the Invasive Bacterial Infection Surveillance (IBIS) in India.

The project has been initiated in Nepal and Sri Lanka with India, 3 of the 8 countries of South Asia.

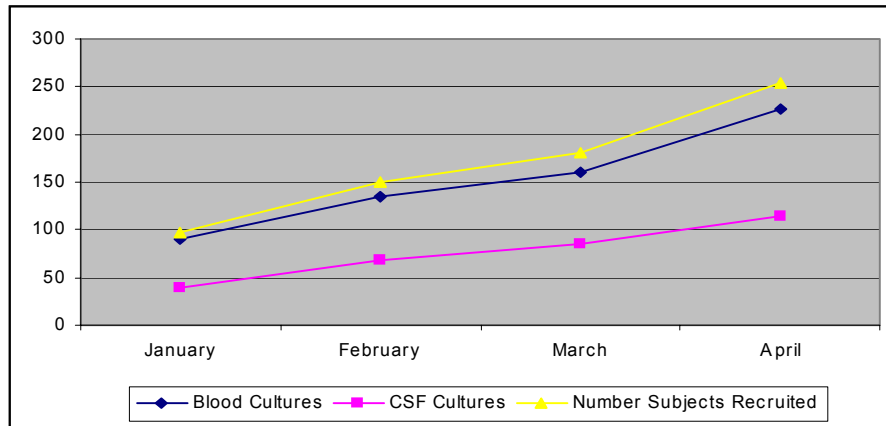
SAPNA study has been initiated as hospital based surveillance of childhood pneumococcal disease in South Asian countries. Data collection has been initiated in two hospitals in Nepal, Kanti Children Hospital, and Patan Hospital in Kathmandu and Lady Ridgeway Hospital (LRH), in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Dr.Aparna Singh Shah, Dr.N.Tuladhar and Dr.Pushparaj Sharma are leading the team in Katmandu, Nepal and Dr.Butuwanthudawe, Dr.Kumudu, Dr.Nihal Abeysinghe and Dr.Sarath DeSilva are leading the team in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The project has undertaken capacity building of laboratories in both countries to improve laboratory isolation and identification of *S. pneumoniae* from suspected cases of pneumonia, septicemia and meningitis. Blood and CSF culture are performed to isolate and identify the bacteria from normally sterile body fluids.

The project has provided 2 rapid diagnostic tests for identification of pneumococcal meningitis. This will facilitate early diagnosis and initiation of appropriate antibiotics of children with meningitis caused by pneumococci in these countries.

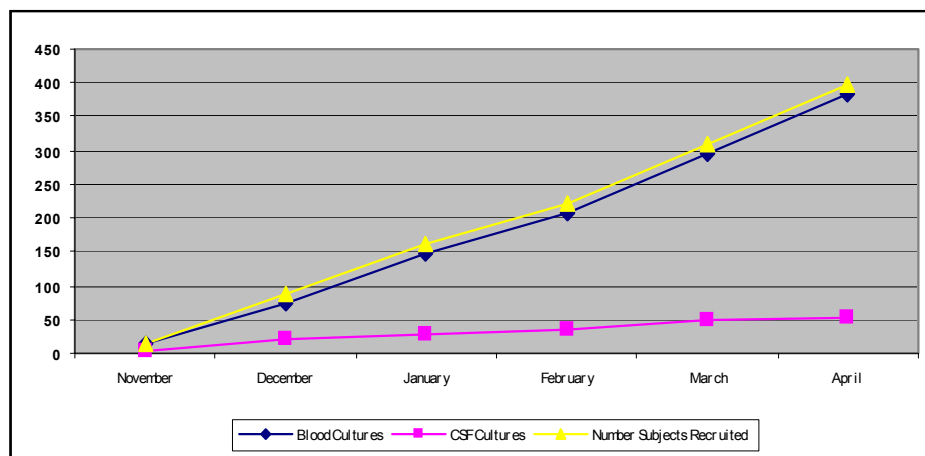
SAPNA STUDY- Update from Sri Lanka



LRH Hospital, Colombo have reported 228 patients, 75% with pneumonia, 8% with meningitis, and 4% septicemia, 13% other. 9 patients had invasive pneumococcal disease and 8 *H. influenzae* during this period. The

isolates from Colombo show high rates of resistance to commonly used antibiotics like penicillin (22%). Cotrimoxazole resistance was noted as 67%. The serotypes isolated were 23F, 19F and 14.

SAPNA STUDY- Update from Nepal



Kanti Children Hospital, Kathmandu have reported 381 patients, 60% with pneumonia, 26% meningitis, 14% septicemia. 7 subjects had invasive pneumococcal disease and 4 had

H. influenzae. Penicillin resistance was noted to be low, though all isolates were resistant to Cotrimoxazole. Type 1 was the most common serotype isolated in Nepal.

In both Nepal and Sri Lanka physical as well as technical modifications have been made to the microbiology laboratories, and SAPNA project offices were provided.

Binax and Latex rapid test results for CSF and improved blood cultures procedures improved



Nepal Reference Laboratory Thribhuvan University

the clinical management of sick patients in hospitals. All blood cultures in LRH are now using sheep blood media, and current data shows the success of this policy.



Modified Microbiology Laboratory at Lady Ridgeway Hospital

Weekly as well as monthly reports of the SAPNA study are made available in the official website.

www.indianclen.org/sapna/home/sapna3.html

Information is shared with all stake holders through news letter.

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