

Original Paper

Frequency of pharyngeal *Neisseria* Carriage among 10-12 years old pupils in Tehran, Iran

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Abstract

Background and Objective: *Neisseria meningitidis* is an obligate pathogen of human and temporary colonizes the mucosa of upper respiratory tract. This study was done to determine the frequency of pharyngeal *Neisseria* Carriage among 10-12 years old pupils.

Materials and Methods: This cross sectional study was carried out on 364 pupils at four primary schools in Tehran during spring 2008 and winter 2009. The samples were collected from pharyngeal region and were cultured on Thayer-Martin Agar.

Results: Among 364 collected samples from pharynx of pupils, *Neisseria meningitidis* not found on the selective media, but three of pupils were carrier of *Neisseria lactamica*.

Conclusion: This study showed that *Neisseria meningitides* colonization was not observed in the pharynx of 10-12 years old pupils.

Keywords: *Neisseria meningitidis*, School pupile, *Neisseria lactamica*, Carriers, Pharynx

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