Abstract

Most Escherichia coli strains live harmlessly in the intestines and rarely cause disease in healthy individuals. Diarrheal illnesses are a severe public health problem in young children. In this review, we have gathered information on current definitions, serotypes, lineages, virulence mechanisms, epidemiology, and diagnosis of the major diarrheagenic E. coli pathotypes.

**Keywords:** *Escherichia coli*, Pathogenic mechanisms, Epidemiology