

FACT SHEET

Enteroggregative Escherichia coli (EAggEC)

Common clinical features

Variable. EAggEC can cause either an acute or chronic (greater than 14 days) diarrhoeal illness. The most commonly reported symptoms are watery diarrhoea with or without blood and mucus, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting and low grade fever.

Incubation period

Generally 8 – 18 hours

Where is it found?

The gastrointestinal tract of humans, cattle, sheep, pigs and dogs.

How is it acquired by affected individuals?

EAggEC is described as a cause of large outbreaks of diarrhoeal disease across the world probably through ingestion of contaminated food and water. EAggEC is a common bacterial cause of diarrhoea among travellers to developing countries and among children and HIV-infected persons living in both developing and developed regions of the world. Direct person to person spread (faecal oral) is unlikely unless hygiene is very poor.

How does the laboratory confirm the diagnosis?

There is no test in routine use in clinical diagnostic laboratories. In the **Iid2** Study a research molecular test is being used to identify EAggEC at the reference laboratory and the result will be available within seven days.

How is it treated?

Rehydration and symptomatic treatment of diarrhoea. Antibiotic treatment is only recommended for persistent diarrhoea. Advice on antibiotic treatment should be sought from your local microbiology laboratory.