

# Knowledge about erythema infectiosum among university students

## Abstract

The objective of present study was to evaluate knowledge about “Erythema Infectiosum”. Erythema Infectiosum is also well-known as Fifth disease. It is a viral illness generally found in kids. This infection is initiated because of parvovirus B19. It blow outs through the mucus from the nose or mouth of an infected person. This disease reasons a bright red “slapped cheek” rash. The virus transmits a disease to only humans. The symptoms of fifth disease bring in some cold, slight fever, body pains, and minor rashes on face, headache and fatigue. In adults, it may have not any indications or sometimes arise the typical rash, joint pain and swelling. The more signs can involve anemia, fast breathing, rapid pulse, temperature and sick feelings. From questionnaire paper, this type of disease is not present in population on large scale. The very low number of individuals has faced it but most of them remained alive with moderate treatment. So, we must not be panic after diagnosing of this infection.

**Keywords:** fifth disease, parvovirus, slapped cheek, rashes, immunoglobulin

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## Introduction

Erythema Infectiosum is also known as Fifth disease. It is a viral infection commonly found in kids. This infection is caused through parvovirus B19. It spreads through the fluid from the nose or mouth of sick person. This virus causes a bright red “slapped cheek” rash. The virus infects only humans. The symptoms of fifth disease include some cold, slight fever, body aches, and mild rashes on face, headache and fatigue. In adults, it may have not any indications or sometimes acquire the typical rash, joint pain and inflammation. The more symptoms can include paleness, fast breathing, rapid pulse, fever and sick feelings. The doctor can diagnose it by checking just rashes on face, arms, legs, trunks and buttocks. When diagnose is impossible by just symptoms above mentioned, the doctor recommends blood test for checking whether the antibodies against virus has been produced or not. The duration of this infection generally appears within three weeks but rashes lasts longer. The joints pain in adolescents may remain for a few weeks or months.<sup>1</sup> Since this disease is contagious so the only prevention is the less contact with infected person. The children who have rashes need just home care with regular oatmeal bath. The individual having weak immune system has more chances towards “slapped cheek” and given intravenous immunoglobulin that has antibodies against parvovirus B19.<sup>2</sup>

The objective of present study was to evaluate the knowledge about “Erythema Infectiosum”.

## Materials and methods

To get the point of views of university fellows, we asked them about erythema infectiosum. Total of 122 subjects participated in this survey. The subjects were the students of Baha Uddin Zakariya University, Multan, Pakistan. These are the questionnaire Performa given to the participants to evaluate the views about the disease (Tables 1–4).

## Statistical analysis

It was done by using Microsoft Excel.

## Result and discussion

Questionnaire based studies have given an important advancement in recent researches.<sup>3–10</sup> In 1980, an epidemic of an ailment that bears a

resemblance to erythema infectiosum happened in Manitoba, Canada in school aged children. In 1968, an outbreak of this illness arose among nursing staff of the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.<sup>1,2</sup> We questioned many students about our research topic. The results of their opinions are given following charts. From Figure 1, it is cleared that most of the students (87%) have awareness about EI (Erythema Infectiosum) is a viral disease and less of them said that it is not a viral disease instead it’s a bacterial or fungal infection but they were wrong (Figure 2). The 2<sup>nd</sup> chart shows that none of the participants has experienced this infection. But some of the neighbors, relatives and friends have gone through this disease (Figure 3). The 3<sup>rd</sup> graph explains that EI is spread mostly by contacts or blood transfusion and cannot be transmitted from parents to offspring (Figure 4). From the observation of above graph, it is clear that fifth disease can be treated by medicines instead of using surgery or other method.

**Table 1** Questionnaire to assess attentiveness about aetiology of Erythema Infectiosum

Erythema Infectiosum is a type of disease?	Yes	No
1. Viral		
2. Bacterial		
3. Fungal		
4. Genetic		
5. Metabolic		

**Table 2** Survey to estimate opinions about prevalence of Erythema Infectiosum

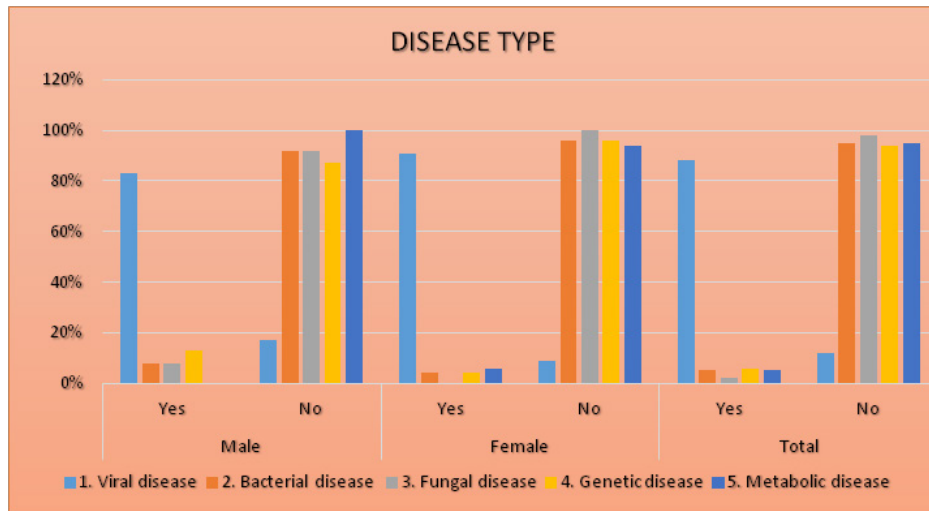
Ever experienced from EI	Yes	No
I. You		
II. Your family member		
III. Your relative		
IV. Your neighbour		
V. Your friend		

**Table 3** Feedback form to calculate views about transmission of Erythema Infectiosum

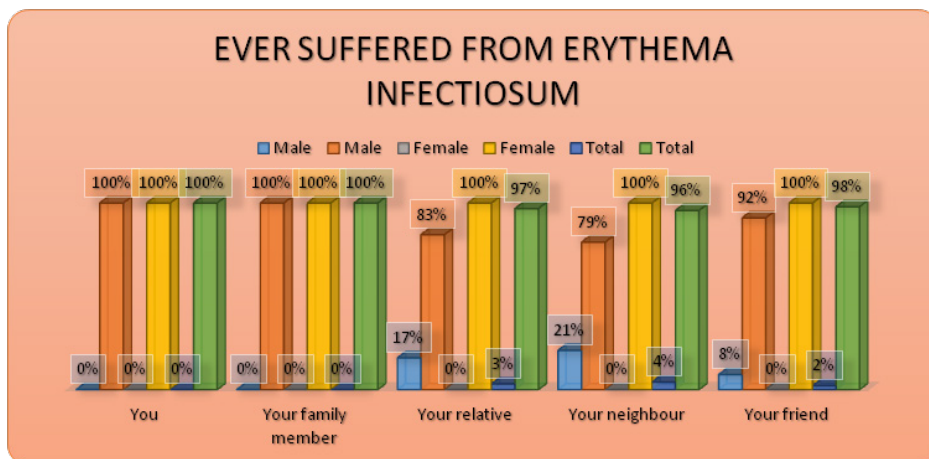
EI is transferred by	Yes	No
<b>I.</b> Contacts or blood transfusion		
<b>II.</b> From parents to offspring		

**Table 4** Inquiry form to weigh views about Hope for Erythema Infectiosum

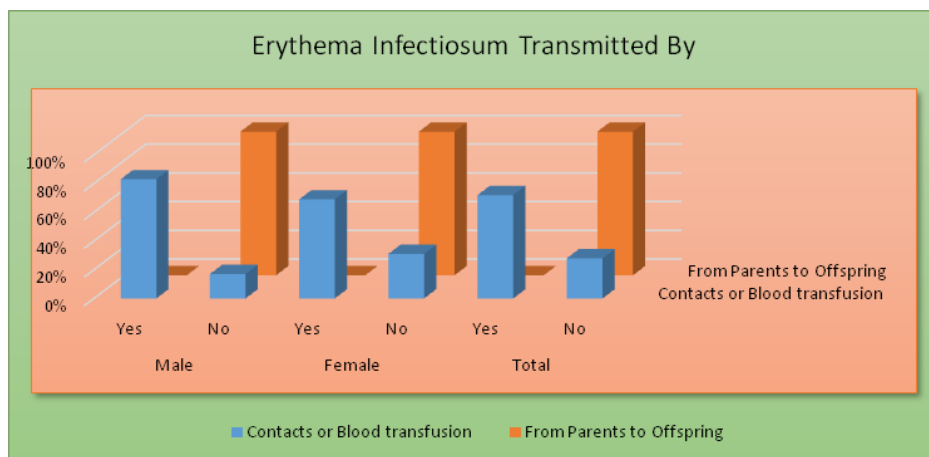
EI may be cured by	Right	Wrong
<b>a.</b> Medicines		
<b>b.</b> Surgery		
<b>c.</b> No need of treatment		



**Figure 1** The percentage of students commenting about Erythema Infectiosum.



**Figure 2** Questionnaire to calculate views about spread of Erythema Infectiosum.



**Figure 3** Evaluation of Transmission of 5th Disease.

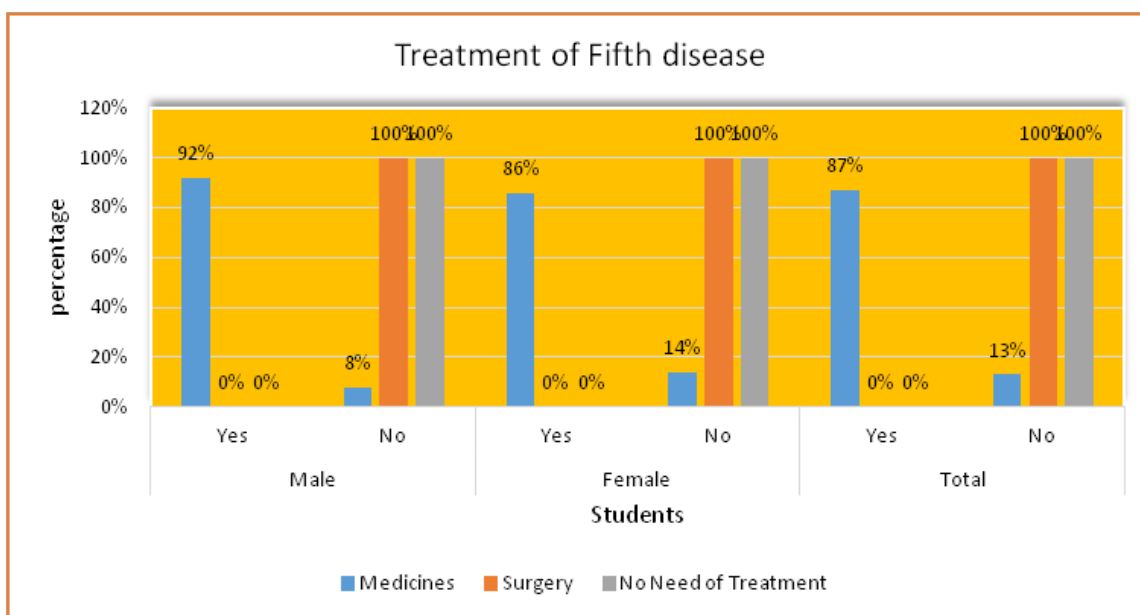


Figure 4 Cure of Erythema Infectiosum.

### Conclusion

We can conclude that Erythema Infectiosum is not a dangerous type of infection. It is not common at all. Majority is known about its symptoms, preventions and treatment. It can be controlled by regular medications and simple treatment.

### Acknowledgment

None.

### Conflicts of interest

The author declares there is no conflict of interest.

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