



A Short Note on Norovirus

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Letter

Norovirus (NoV) is a common cause of acute gastroenteritis, characterized by watery diarrhea, vomiting, and abdominal pain. Symptoms typically last 1-3 days. NoV is highly contagious and can be spread through person-to-person contact, contaminated surfaces, and food or water. The virus is stable in the environment and can survive for up to 2 weeks on surfaces. NoV is a leading cause of non-bacterial gastroenteritis outbreaks in both community and institutional settings.

Prevention of NoV infection involves good hygiene practices, including frequent handwashing with soap and water, avoiding contact with sick individuals, and proper food and water handling. In institutional settings, such as schools and long-term care facilities, strict infection control measures are essential to prevent outbreaks. Vaccines are available for NoV, but their use is currently limited to specific high-risk populations.

Public health agencies, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), provide guidance on NoV prevention and management. For more information, visit the CDC website. The NHS also provides resources on NoV, including how to recognize symptoms and when to seek medical attention. The World Health Organization (WHO) also provides information on NoV, including its classification and epidemiology.

References

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2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *MMWR*. 2000; 49(10): 207-210.

3. World Health Organization. *Weekly Epidemiol Rec*. 2002; 27(48): 41-42.

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