was similar to that observed in studies that were not limited to specimens that had already tested negative for other microorganisms and in which a wide number of agents were investigated (4). Adenoviruses have been associated with infection of the colon and the gut and are a cause of severe gastroenteritis in nonindustrialized countries. In this study, coinfection of adenovirus and HBoV was detected in 1 respiratory specimen but these viruses together were not detected in any fecal sample.

HBoV and parvovirus B19 are the only 2 species of the Parvoviridae family that have been associated with disease in humans. To date, HBoV has only been detected in samples from the respiratory tract and has been associated with both upper and lower respiratory tract disease in infants and young children. The results of our study show that HBoV is also present in the gastrointestinal tract in children with gastroenteritis with or without symptoms of respiratory infection. The fecal excretion adds new concern about the transmission of HBoV.

To our knowledge, this report is the first to document HBoV in human feces. The high frequency of HBoV detection in the feces of children with gastroenteritis and the absence of any other intestinal pathogen suggest that this new virus species is an enteric, as well as a respiratory, pathogen. Further investigations to confirm this preliminary hypothesis and gain greater knowledge of the association between HBoV and enteric disease are required.

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Human Bocavirus and Gastroenteritis

Bocavirus

[bō-kə-ˈvər-əs]  
Genus in the family Parvoviridae. Previously identified members of this genus are pathogens of bovines and canines. A parvovirus of human origin was recently discovered and called human bocavirus because it is closely related to bovine parvovirus and canine minute virus. Human bocavirus is associated with respiratory tract infections, particularly in infants and young children.