

Supplementary Table 1. Full study characteristics

Region	Author	Regional location	Specific location	Years of study	Duration of study	Culture/Sub Category	Study denominator	No. positive isolates	No. potentially pathogenic isolates
Africa	Adejuyigbe <i>et al</i>	Ile-Ife, Nigeria	Outpatient Health Centre	2001	5 months	Blood/Swabs	Isolates	54	37
	Ayoola <i>et al</i>	Ibadan, Nigeria	Children's emergency ward, tertiary referral	1998	5 months	Blood	Patients	5	5
	Berkley <i>et al</i>	Kilifi District, Kenya	Rural 1st referral level	1998-2002	48 months	Blood	Isolates	241	199
	Campagne <i>et al</i>	Niamey, Nigeria	Central Laboratory Registers	1981-1996	178 months	CSF	Patients	101	58
	English <i>et al</i>	Kilifi District, Kenya	Rural 1st referral level	1999-2001	18 months	Blood/CSF	Isolates	86	86
	Ghiorgis <i>et al</i>	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	Neonatal Unit	1992-1993	21 months	Blood	Patients	29	18
	Herbert <i>et al</i>	Kilifi District, Kenya	Rural 1st referral level	2004-2005	5 months	CSF	Isolates	6	5
	Muhe <i>et al</i>	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	Primary and tertiary	1991-1993	24 months	Blood/CSF	Patients	41	41
	Mulholland <i>et al</i>	Banjul, The Gambia	Primary and referral	1990-1992	24 months	Blood/CSF	Patients	55	54
	Ojukwu <i>et al</i>	Abakaliki, Nigeria	NICU, Tertiary	2002-2003	17 months	Blood	Patients	14	14
Americas	Weiss <i>et al</i>	Campinas, Brazil	Health Department Surveillance	1997-1998	12 months	Blood/CSF/ Antigen detection	Patients	33	6
Eastern Mediterranean	Aletayeb <i>et al</i>	Khuzestan, Iran	Neonatal Unit, Referral	1997-2007	120 months	CSF	Patients	14	14
	Maalej <i>et al</i>	Sfax, Tunisia	University Hospital	1993-2001	96 months	CSF	Patients	28	17
Europe	Taskin <i>et al</i>	Turkey	NICU	Not reported	Not Reported	Blood/CSF/Urine	Isolates	71	62
	Biyikli <i>et al</i>	Istanbul, Turkey	University Hospital	1999-2002	36 months	Urine	Patients	44	44

South-East Asia	Darmstadt <i>et al</i>	Mirzapur, Bangladesh	Community Surveillance + Rural Primary	2004-2006	36 months	Blood	Isolates	30	29
	Das <i>et al</i>	Pondicherry, India	Referral	1994-1995	18 months	Blood/CSF	Patients	43	7
	Mathur <i>et al</i>	New Delhi, India	Neonatal Unit, Referral	2005	11 months	Blood	Patients	20	20
	Mondal <i>et al</i>	Pondicherry, India	Referral	1988-1989	12 months	Blood	Patients	16	13
	Panigrahi <i>et al</i>	Orissa, India	Community Surveillance + Referral	Not Reported	not reported	Blood/CSF	Patients	59	27
	Sahai <i>et al</i>	Pondicherry, India	Tertiary, Urban	1994- 1996	19 months	CSF	Patients	5	5
	Tallur <i>et al</i>	Karnataka, India	NICU, Rural	1996-1997	16 months	Blood	Patients	54	42
Western Pacific	Choo <i>et al</i>	Kelantan, Malaysia	Neonatal Unit, Rural tertiary referral	1985-1986	12 months	Blood	Patients	54	42
	Gatchalian <i>et al</i>	Manila, Philippines	Government, Community and Referral	1991-1993	24 months	Blood/CSF	Patients	35	35
	Lehmann <i>et al</i>	Papua New Guinea	Outpatient department	1991-1993	24 months	Blood	Isolates	48	48
	Quiambao <i>et al</i>	Bohol, Philippines	Rural 1st referral level	1994-2000	72 months	Blood/CSF	Patients	34	34
	Yu <i>et al</i>	Sichuan, China	Neonatal Ward, referral	1987-1998	24 months	Blood and local infections	Isolates	1765	840