


Risk factors of non-typhoidal *Salmonella* gastroenteritis in hospitalised young children: a case-control study

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ABSTRACT

Objective To explore risk factors associated with non-typhoidal *Salmonella* gastroenteritis in young children in Hong Kong.

Design A case-control study.

Setting Paediatrics wards at three public hospitals in Hong Kong.

Participants Cases were children aged above 30 days to below 5 years hospitalised for gastroenteritis at three public hospitals in Hong Kong with culture confirmed non-typhoidal *Salmonella* infection. Controls were age-matched (± 2 months) children admitted for a reason other than gastroenteritis.

Main outcomes measures A face-to-face interview by using standardised questionnaire on exposures 3 days prior to illness. Adjusted OR (aORs) and 95% CIs were calculated using multivariable logistic regression.

Results A total of 102 cases and 204 age-matched controls were included in the analysis. Multivariable logistic regression revealed that having food purchased from places other than a supermarket, that is, from wet market/restaurant/farm (aOR, 2.64; 95% CI, 1.03 to 6.77; $p=0.044$) was a significant risk factor for non-typhoidal *Salmonella* infection. Having a household member with gastroenteritis symptoms (aOR, 2.03; 95% CI, 0.94 to 4.39; $p=0.072$) was of borderline significance and playing at a children's indoor playroom was a protective factor (aOR, 0.28; 95% CI, 0.09 to 0.85; $p=0.024$).

Conclusions Consumption of food purchased from places other than a supermarket was the identified determinant factor for non-typhoidal *Salmonella* gastroenteritis in Hong Kong. Parents/caregivers should be alerted to this risk when choosing foods for their young children. The protective effect of playing in an indoor playroom could be confounded by socioeconomic factors and further investigation is required to better understand its potential implication. There was some support for person-to-person transmission and good family hygiene needs to be emphasised.

INTRODUCTION

Non-typhoidal *Salmonella* is one of the main bacterial causes of gastroenteritis that responsible for a considerable proportion of diarrheal morbidity and mortality in children below 5 years,¹ and accounts for 95.1 million cases (95% uncertainty interval 41.6 to

What is known about the subject?

- *Salmonella* infections are often acquired through ingestion of contaminated food of animal origin and contact with infected animals or contaminated environments.
- Previous studies have identified some risk factors of paediatric salmonellosis due to different lifestyle, dietary habits and environmental condition at different geographical regions.
- Recognition of the principal source of transmission of *Salmonella* infection in children is important for public health advocacy to reduce salmonellosis burden.

What this study adds?

- Consumption of food purchased from places other than supermarkets was the main modifiable risk factor for childhood salmonellosis in Hong Kong.
- Data suggest that not closing toilet bowl before flushing and type of domestic flooring were potential risk factors that should be considered to reduce childhood salmonellosis.

184.8), 50 771 deaths (2824–1 29 736), and 3.10 million disability-adjusted life years (0.39–7.39), according to Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors Study 2017.^{2–4} Although most salmonellosis cases are self-limiting, some invasive *Salmonella* strains can cause serious bacteraemia and systemic infections in vulnerable populations including young children, the elderly and those with underlying diseases or immunosuppression.⁵

Salmonella infections are often acquired through ingestion of contaminated food of animal origin and contact with infected animals or contaminated environments.^{5 6} Sources of salmonellosis in young children may differ from those in older populations. Identified potential risk factors of salmonellosis in young children include having a child

riding in a shopping cart next to meat or poultry,^{7,8} exposure to reptiles,^{7,9,10} attending a childcare centre with infected children,⁷ consumption of powdered infant formula,⁷ eating eggs, undercooked ground beef, chicken or animal produce,^{7,9,11–17} family transmission of *Salmonella*^{11,12} and travelling abroad.^{7,9} These risk factors of paediatric salmonellosis may vary due to different lifestyle, dietary habits and environmental condition at different geographical regions.

Recognition of sources of transmission of *Salmonella* infection in children is important for public health advocacy to reduce salmonellosis exposure. Therefore, we conducted an age-matched case-control study to explore potential risk factors of non-typhoidal *Salmonella* gastroenteritis in children aged below 5 years in Hong Kong, a high-income, densely populated city with a sub-tropical climate.

METHODS

Study design and setting

This study was conducted in three public hospitals in Hong Kong (Prince of Wales Hospital, Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital and United Christian Hospital). Recruitment of cases and controls commenced at the same time on 15 April 2019 and ended on 4 November 2019.

Participants

Gastroenteritis refers to the inflammation of mucus membrane of the gastrointestinal tract with presentation of diarrhoea or vomiting.¹⁸ Cases were patients aged from 30 days to below 5 years who were admitted to one of the study hospitals for gastroenteritis during the study period with onset of diarrhoea or vomiting ≤ 14 days before admission. Patients who contracted gastroenteritis of any cause after admission were excluded. Parents/guardians of potentially eligible patients were invited to participate during their ward visit within 72 hours of attendance. The laboratory-confirmed *Salmonella* results from stool specimens collected from patients with gastroenteritis were retrieved from the Clinical Management System (a computerised database used in all public hospitals in Hong Kong).

Controls were patients aged 30 days to below 5 years who were admitted for a condition other than gastroenteritis (ie, non-gastroenteritis controls), recruited from the same paediatric ward of the study hospitals. We aimed to recruit two controls for each case, matched on age (up to 2 months younger or 2 months older than the case).

Participating parents/guardians of cases and controls were invited for face-to-face interviews at the study hospitals with a standardised questionnaire (see online supplemental appendix 1) modified for local use.¹⁹ All participants provided written informed consent. Questionnaires collected data on exposures, sociodemographic and clinical symptoms. Medical information including admission details, final diagnoses and laboratory results were obtained from the patient's medical records and the Clinical Management System.

Sample size

Sample size was based on 80% power, 5% significance level, two controls per case and a percentage of exposure in controls 30%. To detect an OR of 2.1, 95 cases and 190 controls were required based on exposures from previous studies (egg consumption⁹ because this risk factor is frequently found to be associated with increased risk of *Salmonella* infections).

Exposures

The exposures of interest were household living conditions, childcare attendance, breastfeeding, powdered infant formula, consumption and source of specific high-risk foods (chicken eggs, duck eggs, preserved eggs, chicken, pork, beef, seafood, sushi, honey and congee), food outlet and grocery shopping exposure, family hygiene practices, animal contact, intrafamilial transmission of *Salmonella*, child's mobility/social events and travel.

Statistical analysis

Association between exposures and childhood salmonellosis were estimated using ORs and 95% CIs. Univariate analyses were performed and variables with omnibus $p < 0.30$ were then included in multivariable logistic regression analysis to simultaneously control for any effects of confounding. Backward elimination was used to build the multivariable model, with likelihood ratio test used to assess significance and $p < 0.05$ considered statistically significant. Some exposures were considered as potential confounders for other exposures. We tested for multicollinearity and excluded variables with high correlation with milk diet (both breastmilk and powdered infant formula) and food consumption (pork, honey and sushi). Some variables with missing values were excluded, these includes cleaning method of feeding equipment, sterilising method of feeding equipment, measured water temperature before preparation, source of chicken eggs, source of chicken, source of pork, source of honey, source of congee. As the ORs for food sourced from restaurants and farm were > 1 , for example, they showed higher risk than for food purchased from the supermarkets, and that the numbers in school was very small and no ORs were shown (see online supplemental table S1) so we excluded food sourced from school from the single group 'wet market/restaurant/farm' and compared with supermarket and none group. Comparison of categorical variables between cases and controls was performed with χ^2 tests or Fisher's exact test where appropriate. The Mann-Whitney test was used to compare the distribution of continuous variables.

Patients and public involvement

In this study, neither patient nor public was involved in the study proposal development, design and analysis of the study.

RESULTS

Of the total 643 patients recruited, 241 (37.5%) were potential gastroenteritis patients and 402 (62.5%) were

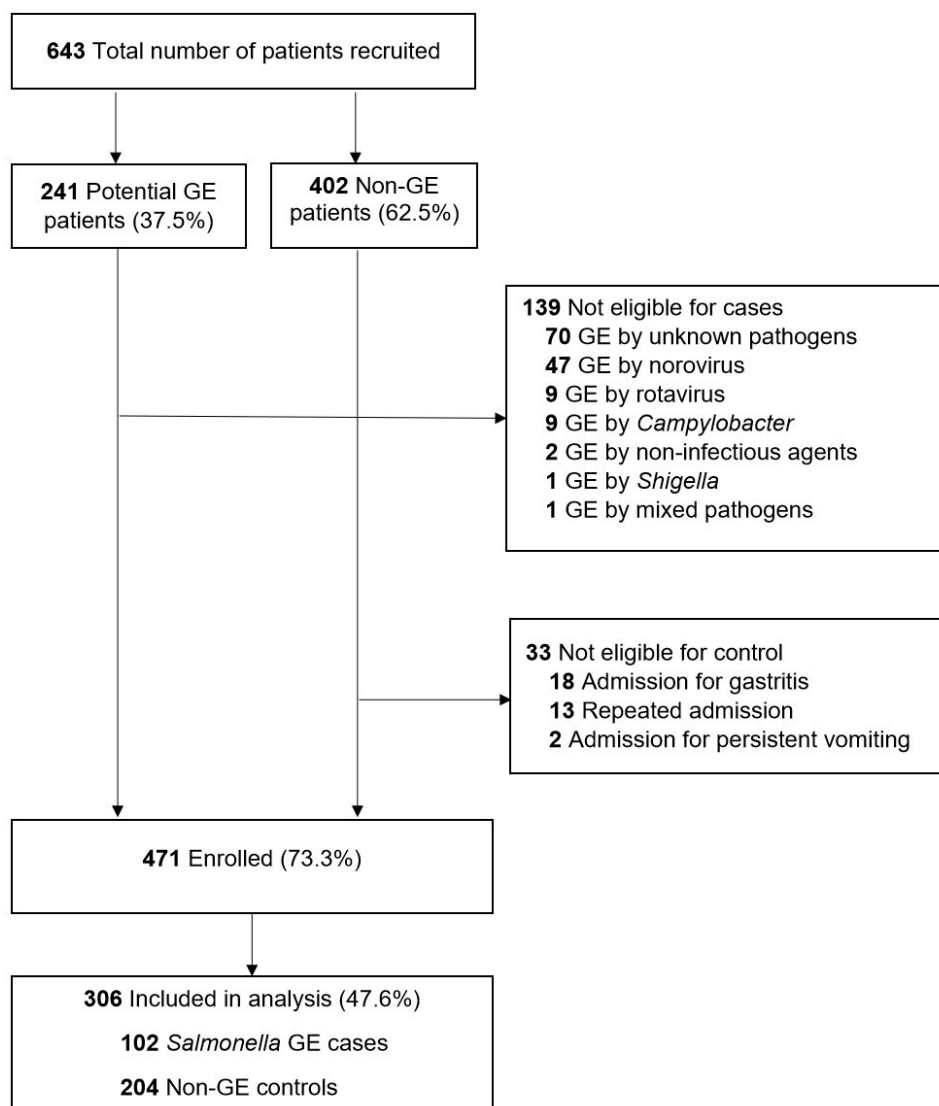


Figure 1 Flowchart of cases and controls recruitment. GE; gastroenteritis.

non-gastroenteritis patients. In the group of patients with gastroenteritis, 139 were excluded as their gastroenteritis was caused by other infectious agents, including norovirus, rotavirus, *Campylobacter* and *Shigella*, or because no causal agent was found. In the group of patients without gastroenteritis, 33 were excluded due to repeated admissions (13/33), gastritis (18/33) or persistent vomiting (2/33). Among the 471 eligible subjects, 204 non-gastroenteritis controls (reasons for hospitalisation shown in online supplemental table S3) were matched to the 102 *Salmonella* positive cases and included in the final analyses (figure 1).

The baseline demographic indicates that over half of the patients were male (57.2%) with median age of 20 months (table 1). A plurality of the children was living in a household where family members whose working environment was related to food and drink (14.4%), patients (6.5%) or children (4.9%). Patients with *Salmonella* infection were marginally younger (median 19 months) than controls (median 20 months). Compared with the

controls, the cases did not differ significantly with regards to age, gender, household nature of work, household income level and maternal education. For the 102 *Salmonella* cases, 46 (45.1%) were serogroup B, 8 (7.8%) were serogroup C, 47 (46.1%) were serogroup D and 1 was ungroupable (table 2). The laboratory serology further classified 15 isolates and 7 isolates into *Salmonella* Enteritidis and *S. Typhimurium*, respectively. The proportion of laboratory cultured-confirmed diagnosis for *Salmonella* hospitalisation was the highest in June (25.5%, 26/102) and the lowest in April (4.9%, 5/102) (figure 2); however, no strong association of monthly distribution of *Salmonella* infections was observed. We noticed a strong association between *Salmonella* serotypes distribution by children age ($\chi^2=20.35$, $df=6$, $p=0.002$), where children aged <2 years were likely to be infected by *Salmonella* group B while children aged >2 years were likely to be infected by *Salmonella* group D (figure 3).

Concerning to clinical symptoms, when compared with controls, the patients with *Salmonella* infections were more

Table 1 Baseline, demographic and clinical symptoms of non-typhoidal *Salmonella* gastroenteritis cases and non-*Salmonella* gastroenteritis controls aged <5 years from three public hospitals in Hong Kong

	All, n=306	Cases, n=102	Controls, n=204	P value
Demographic				
Age on admission (months), median (range)	20 (1–59)	19 (2–59)	20 (1–59)	0.96
Gender, n (%)				
Male	175 (57.2)	59 (57.8)	116 (56.9)	0.87
Female	131 (42.8)	43 (42.2)	88 (43.1)	
Household nature of work, n (%)				
Contact with food and drink	44 (14.4)	15 (14.7)	29 (14.2)	0.70
Contact with patient	20 (6.5)	6 (5.9)	14 (6.9)	
Contact with children	15 (4.9)	3 (2.9)	12 (5.9)	
None of these contacts	227 (74.2)	78 (76.5)	149 (73.0)	
Household income level, HKD\$, n (%)				
<20 000	75 (24.5)	25 (24.5)	50 (24.5)	0.59
20 000–39 999	122 (39.9)	37 (36.3)	85 (41.7)	
>39 999	109 (35.6)	40 (39.2)	69 (33.8)	
Maternal education, n (%)				
Junior secondary and below	49 (16.0)	16 (15.7)	33 (16.2)	0.99
Senior secondary	127 (41.5)	42 (41.2)	85 (41.7)	
Tertiary and above	130 (42.5)	44 (43.1)	86 (42.2)	
Symptoms and severity				
Diarrhoea, n (%)	160 (52.3)	96 (94.1)	64 (31.4)	<0.001*
Vomiting, n (%)	117 (38.2)	44 (43.1)	73 (35.8)	0.21
Fever, n (%)	282 (92.2)	101 (99.0)	181 (88.7)	0.002*
Abdominal pain, n (%)	74 (24.2)	47 (46.1)	27 (13.2)	<0.001*
Blood in stools, n (%)	42 (13.7)	36 (35.3)	6 (2.9)	<0.001*
Mucus in stools, n (%)	75 (24.5)	57 (55.9)	18 (8.8)	<0.001*
Length of hospital stay (days), median (IQR)	3 (2 to 5)	3 (2 to 5)	3 (1,5)	0.20

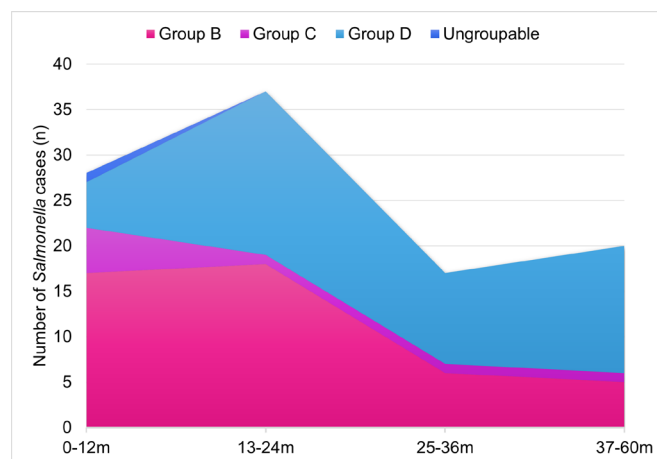
*Significant at $p < 0.05$.

HKD\$, Hong Kong dollars.

likely to experienced abdominal pain (46.1%, 47/102) and diarrhoea (94.1%, 96/102) with stools containing mucus (55.9%, 57/102) and blood (35.3%, 36/102). Fever was developed nearly in all cases (101/102, 99.0%). Although these are the common clinical presentations of *Salmonella* infections, we found a higher rate of these symptoms compared with a similar case–control study in Vietnam by Thompson *et al*²⁰ that reported a lower rate of fever (75.4%), abdominal pain (16.9%), bloody

Table 2 Summary of *Salmonella* isolated from cases (n=102)

	n
<i>Salmonella</i> Typhimurium	7 (6.9%)
<i>Salmonella</i> Enteritidis	15 (14.7%)
<i>Salmonella</i> group B (including <i>S. Typhimurium</i>)	46 (45.1%)
<i>Salmonella</i> group C	8 (7.8%)
<i>Salmonella</i> group D (including <i>S. Enteritidis</i>)	47 (46.1%)
Ungroupable	1 (1.0%)

**Figure 2** Distribution of non-typhoidal *Salmonella* infections by child's age (months).

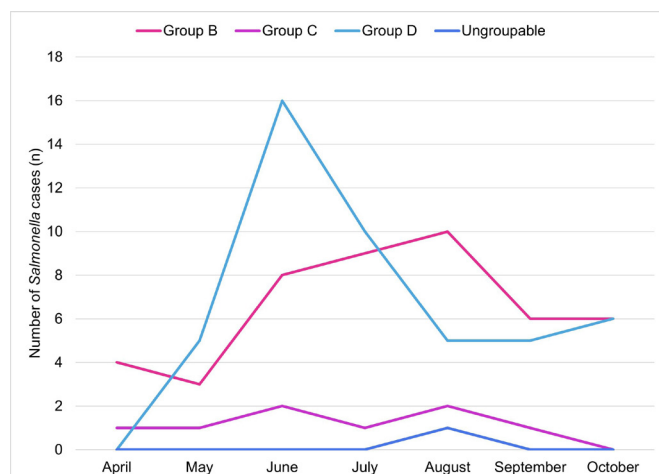


Figure 3 Monthly distribution of non-typhoidal *Salmonella* hospitalisations.

diarrhoea (7.8%) and mucoid diarrhoea (33.8%). We noticed that the length of hospital stay ($p=0.20$) was not significantly different between cases (median 3 days, IQR 2–5) and controls (median 3 days, IQR 1–5).

After controlling for the factors (source of high-risk food, playing at indoor playroom, having household member with gastroenteritis symptoms, riding child inside shopping cart while buying raw chicken, type of flooring (wooden/tile), milk diet (breastmilk/powdered infant formula/combination of both), closing lid of toilet bowl before flushing and playing at playground) found to have omnibus p value <0.30 in the univariate analysis (online supplemental table S2), the final multivariable logistic regression analysis revealed that having food purchased from wet market/restaurant/farm was significantly associated with increased *Salmonella* infection risk (adjusted OR (aOR), 2.64; 95% CI, 1.03 to 6.77; $p=0.044$) (table 3). Having a household member with gastroenteritis symptoms (aOR, 2.03; 95% CI, 0.94 to

Table 3 Selected univariable and multivariable logistic regression analysis of risk factors for non-typhoidal *Salmonella* gastroenteritis

Risk factors	Univariate analysis		Multivariable analysis	
	OR (95% CI)	P value	aOR (95% CI)	P value
Source of high-risk food				
Wet market/restaurant/farm	2.41 (1.01 to 5.74)	0.047*	2.64 (1.03 to 6.77)	0.044*
Supermarket	0.64 (0.17 to 2.45)	0.51	0.73 (0.18 to 2.98)	0.67
None	Ref	–	Ref	–
Played at children indoor playroom				
Yes	0.27 (0.09 to 0.79)	0.017*	0.28 (0.09 to 0.85)	0.024*
No	Ref	–	Ref	–
Household member with gastroenteritis symptoms				
Yes	2.52 (1.20 to 5.28)	0.014*	2.03 (0.94 to 4.39)	0.072
No	Ref	–	Ref	–
Carried child inside shopping cart while buying raw chickens				
Yes	3.06 (0.50 to 18.61)	0.23	1.85 (0.29 to 11.85)	0.52
No	Ref	–	Ref	–
Type of flooring in child's room				
Wooden	1.54 (0.55 to 4.34)	0.41	1.45 (0.44 to 4.80)	0.54
Tile	2.08 (0.81 to 5.37)	0.13	1.74 (0.58 to 5.21)	0.32
Carpet/cement/others	Ref	–	Ref	–
Milk diet 3 days prior to illness				
Breastmilk only	0.68 (0.23 to 2.00)	0.48	0.80 (0.25 to 2.53)	0.70
Formula milk only	0.99 (0.54 to 1.81)	0.97	1.00 (0.52 to 1.86)	0.95
Breastmilk and formula milk	0.30 (0.08 to 1.14)	0.078	0.38 (0.09 to 1.53)	0.17
None	Ref	–	Ref	–
Closed lid of toilet bowl before flushing				
Yes	0.77 (0.48 to 1.25)	0.29	0.78 (0.47 to 1.29)	0.33
No	Ref	–	Ref	–
Played at playground				
Yes	0.74 (0.45 to 1.22)	0.24	0.64 (0.38 to 1.10)	0.11
No	Ref	–	Ref	–

*Significant at $p<0.05$.
aOR, adjusted OR.;

4.39; $p=0.072$) was a borderline significant risk factor of *Salmonella* infection. Playing at a children's indoor playroom was inversely associated with *Salmonella* infection risk (aOR, 0.28; 95% CI, 0.09 to 0.85; $p=0.024$).

DISCUSSION

Non-typhoidal *Salmonella* gastroenteritis continues to be an important child health issue that often requires hospitalisation in Hong Kong. To the best of our knowledge, this is one of relatively few studies exploring risk factors for salmonellosis in young children in Hong Kong and worldwide.^{7–17}

Living in a household where food was purchased from places other than a supermarket, including wet markets, restaurants or farms was associated with 2.64 times increased risk of *Salmonella* infection relative to those who only purchased these foods from a supermarket. Our result is similar to that of a study conducted in Ho Chi Minh city, Vietnam, which found that children households which regularly purchased meat and vegetables at outdoor markets had a significantly increased risk of *Salmonella*, but did not specify the reference group.²⁰ It is interesting to note that the increased risk for *Salmonella* infection among those consuming food from wet markets was found both in Hong Kong, a high-income city, and Vietnam a low middle-income country. Although wet markets are an important source of affordable food for low-income families in Hong Kong, they have also been shown in other studies to have a higher prevalence of foodborne pathogens as compared with supermarkets.^{21–23} A recent local study on the hygienic state of meat cutting boards in wet markets revealed a significant presence of hospital nosocomial pathogens such as *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and pathogens with antibiotic resistant genes.²⁴ It could be due to a limited supply of potable water to rinse animal carcasses and the frequent recycling of used water in wet markets as compared with supermarkets. Also, the less packaging of meat or uncovered carcasses in wet markets may facilitate the transmission of foodborne pathogens disseminated by flies. In addition, lack of proper lavatory and handwashing facilities may lead to a higher chance of contamination. It is possible that there was transmission of foodborne pathogens from food handlers to customers during meal preparation and serving at the hawker centres located inside the wet markets, as food handlers have been identified as key players in food contaminations due to unsatisfactory personal hygiene in Hong Kong,²⁵ Ireland²⁶ and other Asian countries.^{27–30} Some studies have demonstrated higher levels of *Salmonella* contamination in animal carcasses such as chicken and beef sold in wet markets compared with supermarkets.^{23 31 32} The present study was conducted during the wet and hot summer months where high ambient temperature and humidity may favour the growth of *Salmonella*³³ resulting in a higher risk of animal carcasses being contaminated with *Salmonella*.

Living in a domestic environment with household members having gastroenteritis symptoms was associated with a two-fold increased risk of *Salmonella* infections in young children. This finding agrees with studies from Taiwan¹¹ and the USA,³⁴ which found an 18-fold and a 13-fold higher risk of childhood salmonellosis, respectively. To prevent such transmission, family members with gastroenteritis symptoms, need to be reminded about the importance of hand washing after going to the toilet and before handling solid or liquid food for children.

The protective association of salmonellosis with playing in indoor playrooms was an unexpected finding. It is possible that this finding is confounded to higher socio-demographic status, as apartment buildings with indoor play spaces tend to be expensive in Hong Kong. This potential protective factor has not been reported elsewhere and requires further investigation to better understand its potential implication.

Our study explored some other potential risk factors not reported elsewhere where a protective trend was noted when families reported closing the toilet lid before flushing. Previous studies have shown that flushing the toilet with the lid open enables *Salmonella* bioaerosol to survive in bathrooms and toilets for several weeks and that this practice contaminates toilet seats, flush handle, toilet bowl water, bathroom wall and floor.^{35 36} Children may be at increased risk since they exhibit behaviours such as touching, biting or crawling on these bioaerosol-contaminated objects. Further studies may confirm whether improving hygiene in bathrooms and toilets can prevent salmonellosis to children and other family members.

Having a child riding in the shopping cart while buying raw chicken was not associated with increased of *Salmonella* infection risk. Two US studies^{7 8} showing this factor increased risk of childhood salmonellosis with OR 3.2 (95% CI, 2.1 to 5.1)⁷ and OR 15.5 (95% CI, 9.2 to 26.1)⁸ respectively. The lack of association in our study may reflect that this practice is not common in Hong Kong. Shopping carts are frequently handled by numerous users and not routinely disinfected in supermarkets³⁷ and have high microbiological loads on handles and basket-child seats. Children may come into direct contact with *Salmonella* through touching contaminated packaging of raw chicken meat contaminated with *Salmonella*^{38 39} suggesting that parents should prevent their child touching raw products and use hand sanitizer to wipe shopping carts.

Our study revealed that living in a household environment especially child's room equipped with tile flooring and wooden flooring were associated with increased *Salmonella* risk, which agrees with an experimental study in the USA demonstrated that over 99% of *S. Typhimurium* were transferred from tile to food after 5 s of exposure to tile.⁴⁰ The finding further revealed that contamination of *S. Typhimurium* from carpet to food was very low (<0.5%) as compared with wood and tile (5%–68%). Children are at a higher risk of bacterial pathogens contamination

from the floor because of their mobility activities, for example, crawling, touching or biting toys/food dropped and picked up from unsanitary floor. Although most non-typhoidal *Salmonella* infections in human are food-borne,⁶ environmental contacts with households flooring materials contaminated with *Salmonella* are potentially risky.^{40–41} It is noted that choosing the appropriate floor surface for child room is important, as type of flooring materials may influence the bacterial pathogen composition that could impact the air quality of the household environment.^{42–47} Some studies have compared bacterial contamination on a variety of floor material types, that is, 'soft' surface for carpet and 'hard or bare' surface for vinyl tiles; however, the results of these findings were not consistent. Foarde and Berry,⁴³ Rice *et al*⁴¹ and Anderson *et al*⁴² reported higher microbiological counts of *Salmonella*, *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* on carpets, but Rylander *et al*⁴⁶ and Harris *et al*⁴⁴ reported higher surface bacterial levels on vinyl tiles than on carpets. Another study reported that *S. aureus* are more likely to colonise vinyl tile than ceramic tiles floor in a Turkish hospital.⁴⁷ Such risk factor, although not statistically significant in present study, it warrants a more stringent household preventive measures such as regular disinfection and cleaning of floor to minimise the chances of getting *Salmonella* infection in young children.

Strengths and limitations

This case-control study was carried out between April and November 2019 covering entire summer which favour the growth of *Salmonella* thus higher recruitment chances of gastroenteritis cases caused by *Salmonella* than other microorganisms. More importantly, the chances of *Salmonella* cases overestimation are minimal as diagnosis of hospitalisation was based on International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification coding and clinical discharge summary of *Salmonella* infections is frequently referring to laboratory-confirmed report in Clinical Management System.

There were several limitations in our study, the most important of which is that the overall study numbers were small and as such some of the subgroup analyses resulting in a lack of statistical power in the multivariable analysis, for example patients who had food sourced from schools need to be removed from the other locations that is, wet markets, restaurants and farms. Nonetheless, childcare attendance could have excluded because children were on summer break during the study period. Seasonal activities and selection of presumed potential risk factors should be carefully considered to better questionnaire design and modification for local use. Our study was conducted among children aged above 30 days and below 5 years so the results cannot be extrapolated to population older than 5 years, but it should be noted that younger children are much more susceptible than older group to salmonellosis and most hospital admission for *Salmonella* are in young children. The current was hospital-based so the findings can only be generalised to children

with more severe symptoms that seek medical attention and this may reflect the prevalence of the non-typhoidal salmonellosis in community. Another limitation was information bias. Questions were designed and relied on parents or guardian's report of their children condition in the 3 days prior to illness and therefore some might have forgotten the sickness incident during the interview (memory issues) leading to misreporting on the occurrence of *Salmonella* gastroenteritis that can influence the direction of the outcomes of cases/controls (recall bias) thus underestimate the true ORs or association of causal effect. Besides, it should be noted that wrong assumptions about the form of relationship between confounder and illness can lead to wrong conclusions of exposure effects.

CONCLUSION

The main modifiable risk factor was giving young children foods purchased from sources other than a supermarket, that is, wet markets, restaurants or farms and parents and caregivers can be alerted to this risk when choosing foods for their young children. There was some support for person-to-person transmission being an important source of *Salmonella* infections that result in hospitalisations. Family members with gastroenteritis symptoms should avoid close contact with young children and practice good hand hygiene in the domestic setting.

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Contributors PYW drafted the manuscript and all authors helped to locate and check the information accuracy in this manuscript where possible and then reviewed the manuscript prior to submission. PYW and GBW conducted the statistical analysis and had full access to all data in the study and take responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the analysis.

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