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Typhoid and paratyphoid fever in Jakarta, Indonesia. Epidemiology and risk factors

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Stellingen

1. In Jakarta paratyphoid and typhoid fever are associated with distinct routes of transmission, with the risk factors for disease either mainly outside (paratyphoid) or within the household (typhoid) (this thesis).
2. Blood culture for confirmation of (para)typhoid fever infection is a necessary public health tool for disease control (this thesis).
3. Behavioural improvements, such as adequate personal hygiene and consequent boiling of drinking water, can reduce the impact of endemic diseases and poor environmental hygiene (this thesis).
4. Associations between concurrent *Helicobacter pylori* infection and typhoid fever are unlikely due to a decreased secretion of gastric acid (this thesis).
5. Scarce health resources in Jakarta are better not spent on mass immunization campaigns as a typhoid fever control strategy (this thesis).
6. Assessment of well-known risk factors for disease is necessary for the identification of the weak link in the local transmission chain.
7. In a case-control study the comparison of cases with two different types of controls is an elegant verification of the relevance of the observed risk factors.
8. If food falls to the floor and it is in contact with the floor for fewer than 5 seconds, it is safe to pick it up and eat it (Jillian Clarke, Ig Nobel prize laureate in Public Health 2004).
9. The microbe is nothing; the terrain everything (Louis Pasteur, 1822-1895).
10. *Salmonella typhi* has learned the art of compromising with the establishment (A.B. Christie, *Infectious Diseases: Epidemiology and clinical practice*, 4th ed., Edinburgh, Churchill Livingstone, 1987).
11. One can use statistics as a drunken man uses lampposts - for support rather than for illumination (Andrew Lang, 1844-1912).
12. When Typhoid Mary had washed her hands with soap, she would have lived a happy life.
13. The concurrent ideological climate changes due to global warming radiate more attention than the mere physical phenomena.
14. Windsurfers and jazz musicians share the frenetic search for the perfect combination of elements.
15. If the roads in Jakarta were to be considered the intestinal tract of the city, some occasional diarrhea would be welcome.
16. The tyranny of 'or', and the beauty of 'and'.