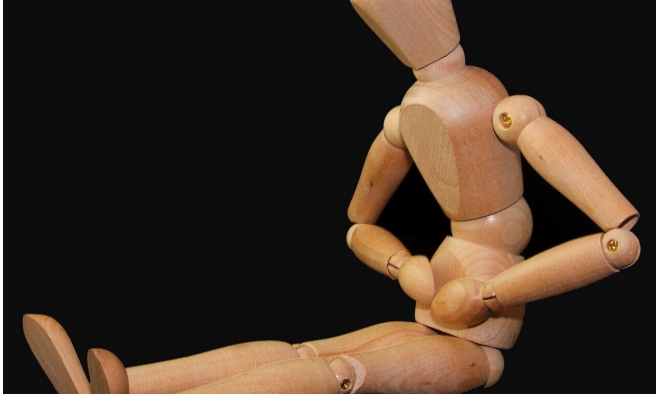


# Identification of stomach flu culprit

10 August 2020, by Leigh MacMillan



**More information:** Zaid Haddadin et al. Characteristics of GII.4 Norovirus versus other Genotypes in Sporadic Pediatric Infections in Davidson County, Tennessee, USA, *Clinical Infectious Diseases* (2020). [DOI: 10.1093/cid/ciaa1001](https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciaa1001)

Provided by Vanderbilt University

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Norovirus is a major cause of acute gastroenteritis, with at least 49 different norovirus genotypes. GII.4 genotype is responsible for the majority of norovirus epidemic outbreaks. The genotypes associated with medically-attended sporadic acute gastroenteritis are less clear.

Zaid Haddadin, MD, Einas Batarseh, MD, and colleagues compared the clinical characteristics and distribution of norovirus genotypes in children who sought [medical care](#) for acute gastroenteritis in three [clinical settings](#) (outpatient, emergency department, inpatient) over three years.

In 2,885 children, norovirus was detected in 22% of stool samples. Nearly 90% of the norovirus-positive samples were GII-positive, and GII.4 viruses were detected in 51% of the genotyped GII-positive samples. Seasonal variations were noted among different genotypes, and children with GII.4 infections were younger and had more severe symptoms requiring more medical care compared to children with non-GII.4 infections.

The findings, reported in *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, highlight the importance of continuous norovirus surveillance and could guide strain selection for candidate norovirus vaccines.

APA citation: Identification of stomach flu culprit (2020, August 10) retrieved 12 June 2021 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-08-identification-stomach-flu-culprit.html>

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