

Endemic and epidemic dynamics of cholera: the role of the aquatic reservoir

ABSTRACT

We need to improve our understanding of *V. cholerae* ecology and epidemiology through further modeling. Estimates of the prevalence of infection in endemic populations and a better description of how much dose affects virulence are necessary.

INTRODUCTION

Cholera is a multidrug-resistant organism (MDR) that is endemic to tropical and subtropical regions of the world. The disease is endemic to tropical and subtropical regions of the world and has been documented to be present in over half of the world's population between 1960 and 2013 (1). The majority of cases occur in people living in the tropics and sub-tropics, with the majority of cases occurring in sub-Saharan Africa (2). The main causes of cholera occur in the mouth, the main source of diarrhoea, and the main cause of death is from respiratory failure (3).

MDR cholera is also a major source of death in the developing world, with a worldwide death rate of over 60 000 annually (4). As a Cholera has been the subject of intense research since Snow's seminal work in 1855, when cholera epidemics were first linked to contaminated water supplies. The disease is characterized by severe diarrhea caused by a highly enterogenic agent called *V. cholerae* O1, which can cause watery diarrhea. If left untreated, dehydration can also cause dehydration within hours of infection. Cholera was only found in the Indian sub-continent until the 19th century. Currently, cholera outbreaks are seasonal and have one or two peak per year. Since 1817, it has been spread worldwide seven times, including in 1961, 1960, 1970, 1980, and 1991. The recent pandemics began in Indonesia, then expanded to Africa, followed by another spread in 1970 and 1990, respectively. This emphasized the need for further investigations into the endemic nature of this disease in these regions as an enigma. When cholera enters a new area through contact with an infected person or by means of contaminated water and food, it can occur in one of three ways: no outbreak, albeit with few waves. Other ways include occurrence of the disease in isolated waves (endemic, without epidemic, or endemiotic), and other demographic and sociological factors that may account for these outcomes. However, research indicates that the number of susceptible individuals, exposure to untreated water/sewage/water reservoirs, and the extent of their effects on human populations are still questionable. In certain aquatic environments, the presence of toxigenic *V. cholerae* can persist for extended periods while in contact with zooplankton and other aquatic organisms. When exposed to stress, this pathogen becomes unculturable and becomes undetectable to traditional bacteriological methods. What is the role of the aquatic reservoir in promoting epidemic and endemic outbreaks of *C. aureus*? What strategies can be implemented to prevent and control severe instances of a cholera outbreak? Which factors are considered predictive? My approach will begin with a mathematical model that incorporates important determinants of the dynamics of cholera in water. While there is much work to be done on this topic, it is often more appropriate to start with an elementary model (limited by several variables) and then move on to additional details. The goal is to determine how the aquatic reservoir can contribute to the persistence of epidemic and endemic cholera, while also emphasizing the importance of mathematical models in the development of

epidemiological theories. These models can synthesize current knowledge from the available information about identifying alternative mechanisms. The work is divided into three parts. The first part introduces the mathematical model for cholera, which is both epidemic and endemic at the time of writing. Second, the model is applied to three hypothetical communities to create a hypothetical scenario of chequeric communities free from epidemic or endemic conditions. Third, I consider potential explanations for oscillations that are deemed enviable, and finally I end this piece by discussing the insights I derive from model analyses of how cholera is controlled. Can you provide a description of the mathematical model? Here I present an extension of Capasso's model which was used to describe the cholera epidemics in 1973 in Italy: two equations that represent the dynamics of those infected with HIV within the community, as well as some numbers of pathogenic bacteria aquatics; adding "dynamics of the susceptible population" because we want to study "long-term dynamics". The formula is: Figure 1 illustrates the symbols and diagrams that represent the dynamics of susceptibles in a community of constant size H . The rate at which susceptible individuals renew their immunity to cholera is determined by whether they contract the disease or not. Given that *V. cholerae* is present in water with a 50% risk of infection, where K is the concentration of this bacteria, I speculate that the only way to contract the disease is by drinking untreated contaminated water. Equation 1b illustrates the dynamics of infected individuals in the community. This category includes not only mild and asymptomatic infections, but also those that develop severe cholera syndrome. I am assuming that all infection types are grouped together and that the case-to-infection ratio remains steady during epidemics. However, it is uncertain whether this relationship is directly related to host factors and/or bacterial factors such as biofilms or bacteria may not be consistent with epidemic symptoms. Bacterial density in the water is determined by the balance between local birth and sewage consumption, as described in equation 1. The third equation describes the dynamics of pathogenic *V. cholerae* in an aquatic reservoir; this group of bacteria is found in ponds, wells along rivers and estuaries, and may be influenced by different factors that affect the physical, chemical, or biological properties of these environments. The initial conditions (all individuals being initially vulnerable) are outlined by equations (2) at last. Modeling: What are the best ways to make model predictions? The introduction of a few cholera infectives into weakened populations leads to three distinct outcomes in the model. These include no spread of the disease, epidemic transmission, and endemic cholera. I illustrate each dynamics using three hypothetical communities, whose parameters are presented in Table 2. The first instance is the absence of cholera in the population. If a community has not been affected by cholera for generations, then it is clear that all individuals are at risk. There are no infective, immune, or toxigenic bacteria in the water. The superscript $*$ is used to represent equilibrium quantities. The initial question concerns what will happen to this community if there are some infectives? Equation system 1 can be adjusted for stability to show that a crisis occurs based on the number of susceptible individuals in the population greater than CS critical number, otherwise the outbreak will occur as 0 (Figure 3). This threshold is given by: The Sc threshold rises in relation to the barriers to cholera infection (R) and recovery (r), as well as the net mortality rate of *V. cholerae* in the water. It decreases as water supplies become more contaminated and exposure to these waters increases. In essence, the greater the level of susceptible individuals, higher the likelihood of a bacterial outbreak resulting from better water quality and sewage treatment. Rearranging equation 5, we determine the extent to which each person who contracts an infection can contaminate the water reservoir

without endangering public health by any means: Infections of *V. cholerae* produce 10²-10⁵ V. chlorophyll in asymptomatic feces, while severe infections result in up to 10⁶-10⁹ cells/ml of rice-water stool. In an example of 10,000 people living in the same water supply, consider the following scenario: If the water reservoir is contaminated with sewage and each person infected by the cholera will have more than 7 cells per day (in order to avoid a bacterium outbreak), then how can we calculate the quantity of water that will be toxic to humans? The model assumes that real ponds are not evenly mixed. However, the risk of infection from drinking water taken from close proximity to the excretion site is higher than that obtained from larger sized inland areas. *V. cholerae* is also associated with phytoplankton, macrophyte, zooplanktonic organisms, and crustacea. These organism types may not be evenly distributed within the water body. While pyrominosaurs tend to concentrate on the surface of the aquatic The model is too simplistic to provide quantitative predictions about cholera dynamics, but it provides qualitative evidence of alternative methods for preventing epidemics. Cholera control is commonly achieved through the reduction of both water contamination and untreated waters, which is achieved by ensuring good sanitation and water treatment. The likelihood of developing a cholera outbreak is higher with smaller susceptible pools. Cholera diarrhea can be treated by adding a large amount of water to make it uninfected. The second case of cholera outbreaks is the epidemic. A community with a higher than expected susceptible pool and cholera outbreak can be caused by the introduction of infectives. The dynamics of this population are shown in Figure 4 (Table 2), along with data from the epidemiological curve. Cholera outbreaks follow orthodox patterns: the initial reproduction rate of the disease is positively correlated with the quantity of contamination in the water supply (e) and the frequency of contact with these waters (a). The outbreak curve and bacterial bloom in the water indicate a negative growth rate, which leads to accelerated decline in population growth. The susceptible pool then decreases below the critical size SC , and the bacterium population is reduced beyond human excretion, resulting in extinction. Eventually, community 2 returns to the stable state of cholera-free status after the decline was reversed. The third instance involves cholera outbreaks that are not easily curable. We have a community 3 in which infection levels are similar to those of community 2, but with n as higher than 0 (Table 2). Assuming that S_0 is greater than SC , the introduction of pathogens causes cholera to occur in community 3. However, since it returns to endemic equilibrium after the first peak, it actually comes back in waves. Solving this problem algebraically solves the following: if we set the derivatives of equation 1 to zero, we get the corresponding endpoint (Figure 5). The proportion of infected individuals in the population at equilibrium is a fraction of the total surplus population ($H-SC$), where is the value of H . As the susceptible turnover rate n increases, fraction increases and tends to reach a value of r . This fraction is only affected by human parameters. Theoretical models suggest that any community with $S_0 > SC$ and $n > 0$ will become endemic, but this is not feasible in practical terms. To maintain an epidemiological state, I^* must be significantly higher than 1, or infection will disappear due to stochastic processes. Stability analysis (refer to Appendix) reveals that the endemic equilibrium is stable to minor perturbations if $SC > S_0$ and $mb > nb$. Dumped oscillations (Figure 5) are responsible for initiating a new outbreak with cholera waves above the threshold SC . Bacterial dynamics in the water are also consistent and follow the human excretion pattern, as indicated by the wave-like bacterial dynamics of the surface. Our model predicts that cholera outbreaks will occur in communities where the susceptible pool is higher than the threshold (SC). The magnitude of the potential threshold depends on various factors such as environmental,

sociological, and strain-specific factors. The presence of a permanent reservoir of *V. cholerae* contributes to the reduced threshold. Environmental factors responsible for cholera outbreaks. Cholera outbreaks in endemic areas are often linked to climatic events, while dry season or heavy rainfall in certain parts of Africa has led to large outbreak during the El Nio and other disaster periods. In Bangladesh, cholera dynamics coincided with the post-monsoon period and were likely influenced by flood and drought. Cholera outbreaks in Peru and Bangladesh are frequently preceded by warm waters, which can cause a rapid increase in the number of bacteria and other organisms. The seasonality of cholera may be affected by various factors, including floods, droughts and biotic interactions. To unravel the possible contributions of these factors to the seasonally variable nature of chlorophylla, I conducted simulations of equation system 1 and used a sine function with period equal to 365 days to simulate seasonal fluctuations. The contact rate in the scenario 1 fluctuates with seasons. I changed the parameter a in equation 1 to the sin function. I used ModelMaker to solve the forced equation system numerically, utilizing parameters for the hypothetical community 3 (Table 2). To test the efficacy of the obtained results, I simulated the model 42 times with all parameters set to default values (Figure 2) and changed only one parameter (Source). In all 42 simulations, periodic dynamics were observed, with cholera reaching its annual peak (Figure 6). Larger populations, meanwhile, had higher water contamination, while low K values and long bacterial residence time contributed to early outbreaks. In most simulation afterward, the only exception was for a period of variable length during which infection incidence remained ca. constant (excluding those with the minimum values of e , H , and n), but this period without any human infection was observed until the next annual outbreak. Figure 6 shows how large population sizes affect the maximum number of bacteria. Scenario 2 involves a seasonal fluctuation in the per capita contamination rate (e) over time. Parameter e in equation system 1 was substituted with the periodic function: Using the same parameter values listed for the first scenario (now is constant), simulations were conducted where an annual outbreak of cholera starts early with high population size and susceptible turnover rate, and low as well as low e . Periods without infections precede each big outbreak (Figure 7). A "plateau" of prevalence is frequently observed after the annual cholera outbreak, which has similar dynamics to scenario 1, but with higher parameters. This plateau rises to create a second peak in intensity. The conditions for this second event are favorable, such as high K , high extinction rate, and fast recovery rate. The seasonal oscillation of the nb-mb extinction rate in *V. cholerae* is illustrated by scenario 3. In the final situation, the term $netnb = (nc-mb)$ in equation system 1 was substituted with the periodic function: The objective is to replicate the seasonal shift in *V. cholerae* abundance in the environment due to autochthonous growth through a phenomenological approach. Although the relationship between temperature, copepod abundance, and chlorophyll has been established, I decided not to include them in this model because of their unclear mechanistic roles. After 2 to 4 months of water growth in contaminated water, *V. cholerae* outbreaks were observed in all 40 simulations every year, and small populations and low rate of contact with tainted water played a role in delaying the outbreak. In contrast to the two previous scenarios, large populations never dropped to zero infected people (Figure 8).

CONCLUSION

A cholera theory that incorporates an environmental reservoir (*V. cephalus*) is the focus of this work, but it requires significant attention to the

basic model proposed by the authors, which does not include many features of the complex system. This work also highlights important social and environmental factors that play a role in understanding the reproduction rate of various organisms. A better understanding of the ecology and epidemiology of *V. cholerae* is necessary for further modeling efforts. Estimates are needed to determine the frequency of infection in endemic areas, as well as more accurate estimates of required infection dose and a more detailed explanation of how dose affects virulence.