NAME: Human adenovirus 2

DESCRIPTION: Human adenovirus type 2 is one strain in the family adenoviridae and genera mastadenovirus, subgenus C. The virus consists of naked, icosahedral, double stranded DNA, about 70 to 100 nm, that replicates and is assembled in the nucleus.

POWER: Beware of this virus if you are an infant. Although an infection does not necessarily mean disease will result, and most resulting diseases are not very severe, once it has infected a host, the virus can remain in the tissue for months without resulting in any illness, and continue to be shed, especially in the stool, spreading infection to many individuals.

OFFENSES:

Attacks: Had 2 is one of the most common adenoviruses, especially in the young, and attacks children under two. It is transmitted by the respiratory or fecal-oral route, and replicates in epithelial cells resulting in cell necrosis and inflammation. Viremia occurs in more serious infections.

Outcome: Minor symptoms of infection include nasal congestion, coryza, and cough. Infection does not necessarily lead to disease, but when it does, typically leads to childhood febrile illness, pharyngoconjunctival fever, pneumonia and other acute respiratory illnesses, and pertussis like illness.

Speed: There is a wide range: the virus may infect the host and produce illness immediately, or be latent for a period, or remain in the host for over a year replicating without ever producing illness.

DEFENCES:

Vaccines: No vaccine, due to the possible oncogenic potential of the virus and unsuccessful attempts at attenuation.

Behavioral: This virus is everywhere, and the best way to attempt to avoid it is to practice good hygiene!

Treatment: No specific therapy aside from treating resulting illnesses.

GAME ACTION: Adenoviruses can be shed in stool for up to eighteen months after infection (though more typically about three months). Infect every player you bump into for the next three rounds of the game.

“The babies at day care were green with this too…yep, you got it…they had H-A-d 2.”