

IMPORTED DENGUE FEVER IN EUROPE: SENTINEL SURVEILLANCE DATA FROM TROPNETEUROP

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Travellers serve an important double role as potential victims of dengue fever and as vehicles for the further spread of the disease. The incidence of dengue fever among European travellers is certainly by far underestimated since only few centres on the continent provide standardized diagnostic procedures for febrile patients. Also, dengue is currently not reported in most European public health systems. Previous estimates have stated that this infection appears to be surprisingly common among returnees from endemic areas. Surveillance has been started within the framework of a European network for imported infectious disease surveillance. Data are collected prospectively since 1999. Judging from the data provided by national systems of disease notification, TropNetEurop covers 10-12% of all patients with imported infections seen in Europe. Reports from 309 patients with dengue fever were analysed for epidemiological information and clinical features. By far the most infections were imported from Asia, suggesting a high risk for dengue fever for travel to that region. Dengue hemorrhagic fever occurred in 2.4% but all patients recovered. Data reported by member sites of TropNetEurop can contribute to the understanding of epidemiology and clinical characteristics of imported dengue fever