CM03 Prevalence of hepatitis E antibodies in solid organ and hematopoietic stem cell transplant candidates

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RESULTS: In the tested group there were 124/69.7% of men and 54/30.3% of women. HEV IgG antibodies were detected in serum samples using a commercial enzyme immunoassay (ELISA; Euroimmun, Lübeck, Germany), while DENV RNA was detected using a commercial ELISA (Euroimmun, Lübeck, Germany), and DENV RNA was detected using an RT-PCR. One DENV strain was Sanger sequenced.

MATERIALS AND METHODS: DENV IgM and IgG antibodies were detected using a commercial ELISA (Euroimmun, Lübeck, Germany), while DENV RNA was detected using a commercial enzyme immunoassay (ELISA; Euroimmun, Lübeck, Germany), and DENV RNA was detected using an RT-PCR. One DENV strain was Sanger sequenced.

INTRODUCTION/OBJECTIVES: Hepatitis E virus (HEV) is a single-stranded positive-sense RNA virus that belongs to the Hepeviridae family, genus Orthohepevirus. Of eight HEV genotypes (1-8) identified, the first four cause diseases in humans. In Croatia, the HEV seroprevalence differs widely depending on the geographical region and population group studied.

INTRODUCTION/OBJECTIVES: Dengue virus (DENV) is an emerging flavivirus that causes dengue fever, a mosquito-borne viral disease that is common in tropical and subtropical regions of the world. There are four DENV serotypes (DENV1-4). The virus is transmitted to humans through the bite of infected Aedes mosquitoes (Ae. aegypti and Ae. albopictus). Symptoms of dengue include fever, headache, joint and muscle pain, and rash. The aim of this study was to analyze the prevalence of dengue fever in febrile travelers returning from endemic areas.

KEYWORDS: Hepatitis E virus; seroprevalence; transplant recipients

CM04 Travel-related imported dengue infections in Croatia

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RESULTS: A total of 56 patients (31/55.4% males) tested from 2016 to 2022 were included. In addition to fever, reported in all patients (56/100%), the clinical symptoms were: headache (10/17.9%), myalgia (19/33.9%), arthralgia (22/39.3%), and rash (15/26.8%). Areas of potential exposure were Central or South America (23/41.1%), Asia (22/39.3%), and Africa (11/19.6%). Acute dengue fever was detected in 12 (21.4%) patients. In 11 patients, DENV infection was confirmed serologically, while DENV RNA was detected in a blood sample in one patient. Phylogenetic analysis of the detected strain confirmed the presence of DENV1. In addition, 6 patients (10.7%) showed previous exposure to DENV (IgG antibodies). Areas of importation/number of patients were: Maldives/1, Somalia/1, Tanzania/1, Sri Lanka/1, South Africa/1, Central America/2, India/2, Indonesia/2, Philippines/2, Cuba/2, and Thailand/3.

CONCLUSION: Since Ae. albopictus is present in Croatia, vector control measures, dengue surveillance, and health education should be performed continuously.

KEYWORDS: Croatia; dengue virus; travel; epidemiology

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