

CLINICAL AND EPIDEMIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS AMONG TRAVELLERS AND IMMIGRANTS WITH IMPORTED FALCIPARUM MALARIA IN EUROPE: SENTINEL SURVEILLANCE DATA FROM TROPNETEUROP

T Jelinek, N. Mühlberger, R Behrens, MP Grobusch, A Matteelli, Z Bisoffi, S Puente, JP Coulaud, J Clerinx, M Corachán, I Gjørup, G Harms, J Beřan, A Kotlowski, H Kollaritsch,, A Björkmann, R Lopez-Velez, LN Nielsen, C Hatz, J Cuadros, M Schmid, J Knobloch, K Fleischer, H Laferl, A Kapaun, JP Delmont, U Hellgren, P McWhinney, M Schulze, P Kern, G Fry, B Myrvang, S da Cunha, , J Atougia, M Paul, P Stanley, G Boecken for TropNetEurop

Malaria continues to cause high morbidity among European travellers. A thorough recording of epidemiological and clinical aspects of imported malaria has been shown to be helpful for detecting new outbreaks and areas of developing drug resistance. Sentinel surveillance has been started within TropNetEurop, an European network for imported infectious diseases. Data are collected prospectively since 1999. Judging from the data provided by national systems of disease notification, TropNetEurop covers approximately 12% of all malaria patients seen in Europe. Reports from immigrants and European patients with falciparum malaria are continuously analysed for epidemiological information and clinical features. Data from individual European regions are quite diverse, reflecting the local impact of immigrants and the amount of international travel in the local population. By far the most infections are imported from West Africa suggesting a high risk for falciparum malaria for travel to that region. Europeans suffer more complications during the clinical course of the disease. Consequently, next to all deaths occur in this group. Compared to European standards, mortality of patients is generally low among the reported cases. Data reported by member sites of TropNetEurop can contribute to the understanding of epidemiology and clinical characteristics of imported falciparum malaria.