

IMPORTED SCHISTOSOMIASIS IN EUROPE: SENTINEL SURVEILLANCE DATA FROM TROPNETEUROP

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Schistosomiasis is a major parasitic ‘tropical’ disease. Immigrants and travelers as well increasingly encounter it as a condition imported to temperate climates. Schistosomiasis is currently not reported in most European public health systems. To generate valid data on imported infectious diseases to Europe, and to recognize trends over time, the European Network on Imported Infectious Diseases Surveillance (TropNetEurop) was founded in 1999 as a network of clinical sites related to imported infectious diseases. TropNetEurop presently covers 51.000, i.e. 10-12% of all patients with imported infections seen in Europe. Reports of 412 immigrants and European travelers with schistosomiasis were analyzed for epidemiological and clinical features. By far, the majority of infections were acquired in Africa. Treatment was uniformly performed with praziquantel. Lethal outcomes were not recorded. TropNetEurop sentinel surveillance contributes to the improvement of the epidemiological and clinical database for counseling and treatment of patients with imported schistosomiasis to Europe.