

TROPNETEUROP: IMPORTED DENGUE FEVER IN EUROPE 1998-2001

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Only few centres in Europe provide standardized diagnostic procedures for febrile patients with suspected dengue fever. Thus, the incidence of dengue among European travellers is certainly by far underestimated. Most European public health organisations do not list dengue as notifiable disease. Still, estimates derived from small prospective studies show that this infection appears to be surprisingly common among returnees from endemic areas. Thorough recording of epidemiological and clinical aspects of imported dengue may be helpful when planning prevention strategies. A sentinel surveillance system has been started within the framework of TropNetEurop, a European network for imported infectious diseases. Data from 1999-2001 were collected prospectively and complemented by retrospective data from 1998, one of the strengths of the network being the timely reporting of sentinel events. An overview of current data on epidemiological and clinical features of imported dengue will be presented.

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