

Epidemiology of Imported Infectious Diseases, China, 2005-2016

Wang, Y., Wang, X., Liu, X., Ren, R., Zhou, L., Li, C....Zhang, Y. (2019). Epidemiology of Imported Infectious Diseases, China, 2005–2016. *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, 25(1), 33-41. <https://dx.doi.org/10.3201/eid2501.180178>.

Overview

Increased incidences and types of imported infectious diseases were observed between 2005 and 2016, during this retrospective observational study. Malaria was the most frequently reported imported disease; primarily found in boarder province, Yunnan. Reported infections were predominantly found in males, between the ages of 20-49. Interpretations to account for the rise in infections were considered— upsurge in travel (migrant work and tourism), globalization and/or newly mandated time-sensitive web based reporting. Prevention strategies were offered— health education, strategic clinical training, boarder screening and establishment of an early warning program.

Abstract

The abstract does accurately summarize the article.

Introduction

The research question is clearly stated; they are aiming to fill the gaps in literature addressing the characteristics of imported infectious diseases in China. The literature review is satisfactory.

Recommendations:

- Placing background information concerning mosquito species, locality and correlating infections in a chart, could allow for readers to follow in an intentional manner— aiding in the comprehensive understanding of the indigenous infection risk in China.
- Previous findings regarding the Yunnan Province and male youths are briefly mentioned in the discussion section; consider adding relevant information in the literature review.

Methods

Methodological approach is clearly stated and the statistical analytic plan is seemingly straightforward.

Question:

- Imported infectious diseases are being evaluated in mainland China; however, two inland provinces (Hong Kong- population: 7.5 million and Macao- population: 650,000) are not included in the database from which the information is being collected. Hong Kong is an extremely frequented travel destination; therefore, including data from that province is likely to provide

added insight to imported infectious diseases in China as a whole. Does Hong Kong/Macao have its own surveillance system? If so, why was that data not included?

Results

Results are presented clearly and comprehensively, providing a detailed description of the characteristics of imported diseases in China, which effectively answers the research question. Included tables and figures are presented in a succinct manner.

Clarification/recommendation:

- To remain transparent in the incompleteness of the entire country's data, omit "all" or insert "studied" within the *Spatial Distribution of Imported Diseases* section, in the sentence stating "~~All~~ 31 provinces (**studied**) across the country....". (There are 34 province-levels in China.)

Discussion/Conclusion

The article offers additional details pertaining to characteristics that have been reported in previous bodies of work. Possible causative factors and preventative measures are provided, which could prompt public health programming. The future research focus is clearly stated. Based on the initial research question, the goal of the study was accomplished.

Overall Recommendation: Provisional Acceptance