Low seroprevalence of sandfly fever Sicilian virus antibodies in humans, Marseille, France

11 Nov 2011

Bichaud L1, Piarroux RP1, Izri A2, Ninove L1, Mary C3, De Lamballerie X1, Charrel RN1.
1 UMR190 (Université de la Méditerranée Aix-*Marseille 2 – IRD), Marseille*
2 Laboratoire de Parasitologie-Mycologie, AP-HP Avicenne, Bobigny
3 Laboratoire de Parasitologie-Mycologie, AP-HM Timone, Marseille, France
Clinical microbiology and infection 2011 Mar 14. doi: 10.1111/j.1469-0691.2011.03509.x. [Epub ahead of print]

A seroprevalence study was carried out in the region of Marseille (south-eastern France) to address the public health importance of sandfly fever Sicilian virus (SFSV) and SFSV-like viruses, as recently recognized vectors of those viruses are present in this area. The low seroprevalence rate observed in this study suggests that SFSV is not likely to be of major medical importance in the Marseille area.

Read the article

VBORNET comment, 26/8/2010: Investigating the human exposure to sand fly fever Sicilian virus (SFSV) and antigenically-similar viruses in Marseille region (south-eastern France), Bichaud et al. found via immunofluroscence assay a seroprevalence rate of 1% (2/198) in residents of the area. Interestingly, this coincides with previous rates reported from France more than two decades ago. Also consistent is the observed rarity of *Phlebotomus papatasi*, the primary vector species for SFSV, in southern France, whereas *P. perniciosus* and *P. ariasi* occur at high levels. Another sand fly-borne virus belonging to the same family as SFSV, the Toscana virus (TOSV), is an important pathogen responsible for human aseptic meningitis and is frequently observed in France, the vectors being reported to be common in southern France. This illustrates how data on vector population reflect the presence and activity of associated infections in human population.

Share

© European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) 2005-2013
http://www.ecdc.europa.eu