

R2889

Abstract (publication only)

**Arboviral encephalitis cases in Bulgarian patients**

N. Kalvatchev, I. Christova\*, T. Kantardjiev, T. Gladnishka, V. Ivanova, E. Mohareb (Sofia, BG; Cairo, EG)

**Objectives:** In the recent years, changes in relative proportion of arboviral encephalitis cases with different etiology in Bulgarian patients were recorded. **Methods:** For the last five years, a total of 114 patients with clinical manifestation of viral encephalitis and no obvious etiology were laboratory investigated. Immunofluorescence test directed to Lymphocytic Choriomeningitis virus (LCMV) and standard commercially available ELISA tests targeting Tick-borne encephalitis virus (TBEV) and West Nile virus (WNV) were conducted. **Results:** Using IFT 10 of 114 serum samples taken from patients during the acute phase of the disease were found positive for LCMV. By IgM ELISA 2 of 114 serum samples were found positive for IgM-specific antibodies to TBEV and other 2 of 114 were found to be positive for WNV. **Conclusion:** Geographical location (at the crossroads of bird migration routes and the connection between the east and west) and climatic conditions of Bulgaria, define wide circulation of arboviral and others illnesses. Serological and genetic studies among patients, animals and birds are needed to perform large-scale surveillance and elucidate epidemiology of viral encephalitis in the southeast part of Europe.