Autochthonous transmission of Dengue in Spain

Source: Ministerio de Sanidad, Consumo y Bienestar Social

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Spanish health authorities have notified the first cases of dengue in Spain with autochthonous transmission. Indeed, on October 4, 2018 the National Center of Microbiology of the Health Institute Carlos III confirmed two cases of Dengue virus infection in two adults living in Spain. None of them had traveled outside Spain in areas with known transmission of Dengue virus before the onset of symptoms. Results from a third case, an adult woman with symptoms compatible with this disease, are pending for confirmation. Their clinical course was favorable and their current health conditions are good. These are three cases belonging to the same family, coinciding together in municipalities of the province of Cádiz and Murcia during the period in which they could have acquired the infection. Two out of three usually reside in Murcia Region, the third in the Community of Madrid.

Dengue is a disease caused by a flavivirus transmitted between people by the mosquitoes Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus, which are found throughout the world. Clinical course is usually benign. In Spain the only vector that can transmit this infection is Aedes albopictus (tiger mosquito), widely present in the country, and especially in the mediterranean coast.

Spanish Health Ministry and Autonomous Communities are coordinating

1. the investigation of detected cases and possible places of exposure;
2. the entomological study in the areas where the transmission was likely, and the recommendations for controlling mosquitos;
3. a retrospective investigation for detecting other possible cases in the interested areas;
4. strengthening communication and awareness to health professionals and laboratories about early detection and timely notification in case new cases appear.

The last cases of autochthonous dengue in Spain occurred in the first half of the twentieth century and they were associated to the presence of Aedes aegypti

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