Dengue outbreak at la Réunion

Date: July 23rd, 2018

Sources:

https://habiter-la-reunion.re/la-dengue-a-la-reunion/
https://www.ocean-indien.ars.sante.fr/situation-de-la-dengue-a-la-reunion

The ongoing dengue epidemic in Réunion has an unusual magnitude compared with previous dengue outbreaks reported since 2004. Since the beginning of 2018 and as of 17 July, 6152 confirmed cases of dengue have been reported in Réunion. In the week from 2 to 8 July, 119 new cases have been detected. The current DENV-2 outbreak is of unusual size and duration. To date, Aedes albopictus is the mosquito considered to be the vector of this outbreak, although there is no evidence of local genetic adaptation of dengue virus to Ae. albopictus in Réunion. The importation in Europe of the virus carried by travellers has been frequently described. In 2016, 2 705 imported dengue cases were reported to The European Surveillance System (TESSy) and to date, in 2018, 57 imported cases have been notified in Aedes-active areas in France, 21% of which were imported from Réunion. Since vector abundance in the EU is sufficient to permit autochthonous transmission of dengue virus, there is a risk for local outbreaks to develop. As no vaccines or prophylactic drugs are available, dengue fever prevention consists mainly on protection against mosquito bites. Travellers returning from areas where dengue virus transmission occurs should be advised to seek medical attention if presenting with symptoms compatible with dengue fever in the first two weeks after their return. According with data (2011 and 2016) from the International Air Transport Association (IATA), an average of 500 000 people travel from Réunion to the EU/EEA every year. The most popular travel periods are December–January and July–August. During the season of high vector activity, early detection of imported dengue cases is essential to prevent local transmission. Laboratory diagnosis rely on Ab and Ag serological detection as well as molecular tests. Antibody cross reactivity can be observed with other flavivirus infections.

Antonino Di Caro, Nicola Petrosillo, Eskild Petersen

ESCMID Emerging Infections Taskforce (EITaF)