

eP580

ePoster Viewing

Malaria

## MALARIA IN ISTANBUL: THE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL, LABORATORY, CLINICAL AND THERAPEUTIC FEATURES OF 63 CASES

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**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to evaluate the epidemiological, laboratory, clinical and therapeutic features of adult malaria patients in a teaching hospital in Istanbul, Turkey

**Methods:** Sixty-three cases, followed-up in an infectious diseases clinic between 1996 and 2013, were assessed retrospectively. Diagnosis was established by Giemsa-stained thick and/or thin blood smears in all cases.

**Results:** Fifty-three patients were male and 10 patients were female and median age was 32,1 (range: 15-60 years). All patients had a history of travel to endemic areas (47 cases to Africa, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Arabian Peninsula, 16 cases to Southeastern Anatolia Region). Only 5 (7,9%) patients had chemoprophylaxis for malaria. *Plasmodium vivax* was detected in 21 patients, and *P. falciparum* in 40 and mixed (*P. vivax* and *P. falciparum*) in two. Parasitemia ranged from 0.5%- 25%. Fever (100%), splenomegaly (71,4%), hepatomegaly (44,4%), anemia (61,0%), leukopenia (36,5%), thrombocytopenia (76,1%), a rise in erythrocyte sedimentation rate (44,4%), abnormalities in hepatic enzymes (57,1%), hyponatremia (30,0%), hypoglycemia (31,7%) and an elevated serum creatinine level (22,2%) were determined in the patients. Acute renal failure, acute respiratory distress syndrome, cerebral involvement and disseminated intravascular coagulation were observed in one patient with falciparum malaria who recovered completely. Two (3,1%) patients with *P. falciparum* developed acute renal failure and cerebral involvement died soon after admission

**Conclusions:** Every febrile patient with a history of travel to the endemic regions should raise the suspicion of malaria. Effective pre-exposure chemoprophylaxis and personal protection measures should be provided to travellers visiting endemic regions.