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ePoster Viewing

Malaria

AN ELEVEN-YEAR EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY REPORT OF MALARIA IN ADANA, TURKEY

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Objective: Malaria is a protozoal, intracellular infectious disease. Although there are effective treatments, it is still one of the leading causes of death in the world. We aimed to evaluate the epidemiological data of the malaria cases in Adana province of Turkey, between 2002 and 2012.

Methods: In this cross-sectional study, active and passive surveillance results collected by the Malaria and Tropical Diseases Institute of the Adana Public Health Directorship were evaluated retrospectively. For the diagnosis, thick and thin blood smears were taken from finger pricks of patients. These smears were stained according to the Giemsa method and then examined under oil immersion (x 1000). The patients were evaluated according to age groups, gender, months and malaria species.

Results: Two hundred and fifty two patients were diagnosed with malaria during a period of 11 years. Among these patients, 148 (58.7%) were male and 104 (41.3%) were female. *P. vivax* was detected in 229 (90.9%) patients and *P. falciparum* was detected in 23 (8.1%) patients. All *P. falciparum* cases and the six of the *P. vivax* cases were foreign origin. Imported cases had traveled to Cameroon, Iran, Nigeria, Guinea, Afghanistan, Gabon, Malawi, Sudan and Algeria. When the patients were evaluated according to the age groups: No patients were between 0-11 months, 7 (2.8%) patients were between 1-4 years of age, 15 (5.9%) patients were between 5-9 years of age, 27 (10.8%) patients were between 10-14 years of age and 203 (80.5%) patients were older than 15 years of age.

Conclusion: In Turkey, the number of malaria cases decreased from 11381 to 9 (all of them are recurrence) from the year 2000 to 2010, due to an effective malaria control program. By the 99 percent reduction in the number of malaria patients, Turkey has been categorized as in 'elimination phase' by World Health Organization. Cukurova is an endemic region for malaria, and Adana is the largest city in the region. We believe that the surveillance studies conducted without any interruption may prevent malaria to become a reemerging problem in this region.