

本署檔號 Our Ref.: (54) in DH SEB CD/8/16/1/2 II

來函檔號 Your Ref.:

電 話 TEL.:

傳 真 FAX No.:

31 August 2005

Dear Doctor,

### A Local Case of Japanese Encephalitis (JE)

On 31 August 2005, the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) confirmed the first local case of JE in 2005. The patient is a 37-year-old woman with pre-existing renal disease living in Tin Heng Estate in Tin Shui Wai. She had onset of fever, dizziness, vertigo and diplopia on 20 July 2005 and was admitted into Tuen Mun Hospital on the same day. She developed convulsions on the next day, requiring artificial ventilation and intensive care and is now in a serious condition. As the patient has not travelled outside Hong Kong during the 2 weeks before onset of illness, this is classified as a local case. Her family members are all asymptomatic.

JE is a viral disease transmitted by the bite of infective Culicine mosquitoes which breed in water-logged fields, surface drainage channels, ponds, disused large water containers and sand pits. Besides being widely distributed in rural areas, the vectors have also been found in urban areas in Hong Kong.

The incubation period of JE is usually 4 to 14 days. The disease may begin with non-specific prodromal symptoms lasting several days, followed by acute onset of high fever, severe headache, vomiting, photophobia, drowsiness, meningism and convulsion. Many infections are asymptomatic. Case fatality rate of symptomatic cases of JE ranges from 5% to 35%. Neurological sequelae may occur in up to 70% of the survivors of symptomatic JE infections.

Between 1997 and August 2005, there were 12 JE cases reported, including 7 local cases (1 in 2003, 5 in 2004, and 1 in 2005), and 5 imported cases (1 in 1997, 1 in 2001, 2 in 2002, and 1 in 2005). JE has become a statutorily notifiable disease since July 2004.



An inactivated JE vaccine is licensed in Hong Kong and is currently recommended for laboratory workers dealing with live JE virus and travellers to JE endemic areas in Asia and Western Pacific Region particularly in rural areas and staying for one month or longer.

If you encounter patients with signs and symptoms suggestive of JE, please report to the Central Notification Office (CENO) of the CHP by phone (2477 2772) or fax (2477 2770) or via the CENO on-line website (<http://www.chp.gov.hk/ceno>). Outside office hours, the Medical Control Officer could be informed through hospital emergency departments.

For more information on JE, please visit our website at <http://www.chp.gov.hk>

Yours sincerely,



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