

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (18) in DH SEB CD/8/97/1 Pt.7

26 August 2016

Dear Medical Superintendent,

The first imported case of Zika Virus Infection

We would like to draw your attention to the first confirmed case of imported Zika Virus Infection (ZVI) reported in Hong Kong on 25 August 2016 and to remind doctors to remain vigilant against this disease.

The patient was a 38-year-old woman who lives in Lohas Park, Tseung Kwan O. She works in International Finance Centre, Central. She presented with joint pain since 20 August 2016. She attended the out-patient clinic of a private hospital on 23 August 2016 and was noted to have red eyes on examination. She did not require hospitalisation. Her blood and urine samples taken on 24 August were tested positive for Zika virus on 25 August 2016 by the Public Health Laboratory Services Branch (PHLSB) of the Centre for Health Protection (CHP). The patient was stable all along and was put under isolation in a vector free (mosquito-free) environment in United Christian Hospital for further management.

The patient had travelled to St Barthelemy in the Caribbean from 6 to 20 August 2016 with her husband and two children and returned to Hong Kong on 22 August 2016. She could recall mosquito bites during her stay in the Caribbean. Her travel collaterals have remained asymptomatic so far. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), St Barthelemy is categorized as a country/territory with a first reported outbreak from 2015 onwards. The case is therefore regarded as imported infection. After arrival in Hong Kong at the Hong Kong International Airport and before admission to hospital, the patient has visited several places including her home in Tseung Kwan O, her workplace in Central, a clinic of a private hospital in Central, Wo Mei Hung Min Road, Sai Kung, and Lockhart Road, Wan Chai. Investigation is ongoing.



ZVI is a mosquito-borne disease caused by Zika virus. Most ZVI is asymptomatic. The symptoms of ZVI include skin rash, fever, conjunctivitis, muscle or joint pain and general malaise. These symptoms are usually mild and last for a few days. The current major concern is the association with adverse pregnancy outcome (microcephaly) and neurological and autoimmune complications such as Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS). According to the WHO, based on research to date, there is scientific consensus that Zika virus is a cause of microcephaly and GBS.

For travellers returning from affected areas and presenting with symptoms compatible with ZVI (such as skin rash, fever, conjunctivitis etc.), please consider laboratory investigations of ZVI. PHLSB of CHP can be contacted for advice on laboratory testing. Please report **confirmed** cases immediately to the Central Notification Office (CENO) of CHP via fax (2477 2770) using the reporting form, phone (2477 2772) or CENO On-line (https://cdis.chp.gov.hk/CDIS_CENO_ONLINE/ceno.html). If you report any case outside office hours, please call our Medical Control Officer at 7116 3300 a/c 9179 for prompt investigation.

Please draw the attention of the healthcare professionals and supporting staff in your institution/ working with you to the above. Thank you for your unfailing support in prevention and control of communicable diseases.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Yonnie LAM', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

(Dr. Yonnie LAM)
for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health