

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (22) in DH CDB/8/97/1 Pt.10

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Dear Doctor,

An imported case of Zika Virus Infection in 2023

We would like to draw your attention to a confirmed case of imported Zika Virus Infection (ZVI) reported in Hong Kong on 15 November 2023 and to remind doctors to remain vigilant against this disease.

The patient was a 58-year-old woman who presented with fever and cough on 7 November 2023, then developed generalised skin rash, multiple joint pain, muscle pain and generalized weakness on 9 November. She attended public hospitals on 12 November and 13 November, and was admitted. She remained stable all along. Her blood sample taken on 13 November was tested positive for Zika virus RNA on 15 November by the Public Health Laboratory Services Branch of the Centre for Health Protection (CHP).

The patient had travelled to India on 30 October 2023 and returned to Hong Kong on 12 November 2023. During the incubation period, she was in India and could recall mosquito bites there. One of her travel collaterals developed similar symptoms on 12 November and was admitted for investigation. According to the World Health Organization, India is an area with current or previous Zika virus transmission. The case is therefore classified as an imported infection.

ZVI is a mosquito-borne disease caused by Zika virus. Most ZVI is asymptomatic. The symptoms of ZVI include skin rash, fever, headache, conjunctivitis, muscle pain, joint pain and general malaise. These symptoms are usually mild and last for a few days. ZVI can cause neurological complications such as Guillain-Barré syndrome, neuropathy and myelitis. ZVI during pregnancy is a cause of microcephaly and other congenital malformations in the infant, and can also cause complications such as fetal loss, stillbirth and preterm birth.



Hong Kong has so far recorded a total of 4 cases (2 in 2016, 1 in 2017 and 1 in 2023) since the disease has been made notifiable in February 2016. We would like to take this opportunity to remind doctors to remain vigilant against ZVI. For travellers returning from areas with autochthonous transmission of ZVI (http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/view_content/43209.html)

and presenting with compatible symptoms (which cannot be explained by dengue fever, chikungunya fever or other medical conditions), please consider further investigations for ZVI. Should you identify patients fulfilling the case definition for reporting, please report to the Central Notification Office (CENO) of the CHP via fax (2477 2770), phone (2477 2772) or CENO On-line (https://cdis.chp.gov.hk/CDIS_CENO_ONLINE/ceno.html) during office hours, or call our Medical Control Officer (pager: 7116 3300 call 9179) outside office hours.

Thank you for your continuous support in combating infectious diseases.

Yours faithfully,



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