

LEGIONELLOSIS, FATAL 2003 - UK EX INDIA

A ProMED-mail post <<http://www.promedmail.org>>

ProMED-mail is a program of the International Society for Infectious Diseases

<<http://www.isid.org>>

Date: Sat 26 Jun 2004

From: ProMED-mail <promed@promedmail.org>

Source: The Statesman.net [edited]

<<http://www.thestatesman.net/page.news.php?clid=2&theme=&usrsess=1&id=46661>>

A British tourist, who had been travelling in the country [India] in 2003, died in the United Kingdom from an infection hitherto unknown in India. The matter came to light when the British High Commission informed the health ministry that a 53 year old citizen had died in December 2003 from legionnaire's disease.

This sent alarm signals ringing in the Union health ministry, as he had come to India in November 2003, and had visited Delhi, Agra, Jaipur, and Goa. Though he died in December 2003, the Union health ministry found out about his death only last week. Immediately, the NICD was asked to send teams to collect water samples from the places he had stayed in the 4 cities.

According to the itinerary sent by the High Commission, the tourist had arrived in Delhi in the last week of November 2003. He then traveled to Jaipur, then returned to Delhi, before going on to Agra. After seeing the Taj Mahal, he went to Goa, by air, from Delhi. During each of his stays in Delhi, he stayed at the Marriott hotel in Saket. He went back to the United Kingdom on 5 Dec 2003 and died 2 days later. No previous occurrence of legionnaire's disease has been found in India.

ProMED-mail <promed@promedmail.org>

[This report claims that the case was the first acquired in India, but that appears not to be the case. As discussed in several of the postings listed below, other cases have been acquired in Eastern Asia, and in India, specifically. There is no real reason why it should not exist there, and be found, if it is looked for. - Mod.LL]

LEGIONELLOSIS, FATAL 2003 - UK EX INDIA: BACKGROUND

A ProMED-mail post <<http://www.promedmail.org>>

ProMED-mail is a program of the International Society for Infectious Diseases

<<http://www.isid.org>>

Date: Tue 29 Jun 2004

From: Badri Badrinath <badrishanthi@hotmail.com> [edited]

The first report on legionellosis from India appeared over a decade ago. The following 2 reports show that this condition exists in India.

Agrawal L, Dhunjibhoy KR, Nair KG. Isolation of Legionella pneumophila from patients of respiratory tract disease and environmental samples. Indian J Med Res 1991; 93: 364-5. In this preliminary study, 45 patients suffering from pneumonia were screened for L. pneumophila. Also, 17 random environmental samples, water from a cooling system used for air conditioning units, and samples from a respirator-humidifier were screened. Four of the 45 clinical specimens (9 per cent) and 13 of the 17 environmental samples (76 per cent) showed the presence of L. pneumophila. This is the 1st report from India of the isolation of L. pneumophila.

Chaudhry R, Dhawan B, Dey AB. The incidence of Legionella pneumophila: a prospective study in a tertiary care hospital in India. Trop Doct 2000; 30: 197-200. The prevalence of Legionella pneumophila, which resulted in community-acquired pneumonia (CAP) in patients admitted to the hospital, was investigated. Between April 1997 and December 1998, 60 patients with CAP admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences were included in the study. Etiological diagnosis was based on the results of routine microbiological blood culture for bacteria and serological test by enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) for L. pneumophila serogroup 1-7. Eight patients (13 per cent) had a conventional bacterial etiology and 9 patients (15 per cent) had serological evidence of recent infection with L. pneumophila.

Dr P Badrinath MD, PhD, MFPH
University of Cambridge, UK
<badrishanthi@hotmail.com>

[ProMED thanks Dr Badrinath for his comments. - Mod.LL]