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OP28.02 (353)
A Pilot Study On The Serostatus Of Parvovirus B19 In Blood Donors At A Tertiary Healthcare Centre In South India
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Purpose: The core component of every blood program is the establishment of a system to ensure the safe supply of blood and blood products. Parvovirus B19 (B19V) is one of the emerging blood-borne pathogens in recent times. In India, routine screening of B19V is not done for blood and blood products. The objective of this study is to determine the serostatus of B19V among blood donors at a tertiary care hospital in Chennai, South India.

Methods & Materials: This is a cross-sectional study. A total of 100 samples were collected from blood donors. Ethical clearance was obtained from the Institutional Ethics Committee. Serum was separated by centrifuging at 1000g and stored at -80oC. Serum samples were screened for anti-human B19V IgM and IgG antibodies using semi-quantitative ELISA (Novalisa, ©Novatec, Germany). The purified antigens coated in the wells were VP-1S, VP-C, and VP-N; a part of the VP1 & NS1 protein of the virus. The test was performed as per kit instructions. The serostatus of blood donors was recorded.

Results: Of the 100 samples tested using ELISA, 45% were found to be B19V IgG positive and 24% were found to be B19V IgM positive. About 3% of the samples were positive for both B19V IgM and IgG, indicating recurring infection. Of the samples tested, there were 14% of the people who were positive for B19V IgM and not IgG. The mean age of the participants is 29.3 years. All participant blood donors were male.

Conclusion: B19V infection can result in serious complications in high-risk groups. This includes hydrops fetalis in pregnant women, chronic anaemia & transient aplastic crisis in patients with haematological problems and immunodeficient patients. These are the patients who require constant multi-transfusion. However, in most countries, including India, the screening of donors is not mandatory. There is evidence of long-term B19V persistence in blood circulation and tissues of both the immunocompromised and immunocompetent. This study demonstrates the importance of screening to eliminate the risk of transmission through transfusion. Systematic surveillance of the virus in blood and blood products will lead to improved health outcomes in vulnerable populations.

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PS28.01 (498)
Content Analysis of Risk Communication on Three Instagram Accounts of Provincial Health Offices in Indonesia During the Covid-19 Pandemic
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Purpose: This study aims to analyze risk communication related to Covid-19 conducted by three Provincial Health Offices on their Instagram account. This research used descriptive quantitative method with a content analysis approach.

Methods & Materials: The study was limited to the first 6-month-period of crisis moments in Indonesia from March to August 2020. The unit of analysis were postings of three accounts of the Provincial Health offices on Instagram. The population of this study were 970 postings and the samples were 792 postings related to Covid-19 that were chosen using purposive sampling technique. The instruments were coding instrument which were organized in a codebook. It consists of 7 main codes based on previous established study. The main codes were modified into 20 subcodes. The code and subcodes were tested by 4 coders using Krippendorff’s alpha (α) for its intercoder’s reliability. All categories were reliable (α>0.8).

Results: The results showed that risk communication varied among three Provincial Health Offices and in some area needs improvement. The most types of postings were are in the form of posters with caption or posters only (66.5%) and the least types of postings were video or Instagram TV (0.1%). Some of the messages’ target were made to provide information (46.6%) and only a few were aimed at building public trust. The most targeted audiences were general public (91.6%), while the least targeted audiences were organizations (0.1%). Covid-19 content in the form of behavior change education was the most uploaded postings (46.2%) while government policies related to covid-19 were very limited in the postings (3.5%). Most of the postings cited websites and or social media (54.9%) for references and scientific journals (0.3%) were the least cited. The most widely used message intonation was with positive intonation (84.8%).

Conclusion: Instagram plays as an important complementary tool for risk communication by the government. Provincial Health Offices may add more postings that will improve public trust to the government in managing and handling Covid-19 problems and to improve the public engagement, understanding, and responses to Covid-19.

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Topic 29: Rumors and Misinformation in Infectious Diseases

PS29.01 (811)
A Web-Survey Exploration of COVID-19 Knowledge, Misinformation and Sources of Information During the COVID-19 Pandemic in Nigeria
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**Purpose:** Due to the novel and rapidly evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a widespread perpetuation of myths, rumours, and conspiracy theories about the pandemic. This has led to the emergence of an “infodemic” of fake news and distorted facts. Our study examines Nigerians’ knowledge and sources of COVID-19 information during the pandemic.

**Methods & Materials:** We conducted a web-based cross-sectional survey of internet users (≥ 16 years old) resident in Nigeria targeted through snowballing sampling. The questionnaire was deployed using the JISC platform (https://www.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/) between 19th May 2020 to 18th June 2020. Descriptive statistics and chi-square (χ2) were reported while multivariable logistic regression was conducted to estimate the association between selected predictor variables and a good COVID-19 knowledge.

**Results:** A total of 406 respondents across all six geopolitical zones in Nigeria were recruited for the survey. Varying proportion of the respondents agreed with some of the prevailing misinformation such as the bioengineered weapon origin of COVID-19 (29.6%), and that herbal mixtures (18.7%) and antibiotics (9.1%) are efficacious cures. A lesser proportion also believed the virus was engineered for population control (9.5%) and vaccination enforcement (5.7%), as a plague caused by sins (4.7%) and a consequence of the 5G network technology (2.5%). Most respondents ranked international health organisations (73.9%) and health/public health workers (70.7%) as their most trusted sources of COVID-19 information while a comparatively lower proportion indicated their trust in government statements (40.6%) and social media sources (22.4%). Multivariable regression reveals a number of predictors of COVID-19 knowledge such as being urban settlers (OR:2.98, 95% CI:1.05 – 8.49, p = 0.04) compared to rural dwellers; resident in the North Central zone (OR:0.53, 95% CI:0.30 - 0.95, p = 0.03) and the Northwest zone (OR:0.20, 95% CI:0.07 - 0.60, p = 0.004) compared to those in Southwest zone of Nigeria; and having a non-medical educational/professional background (95% CI: 0.29 - 0.85, p = 0.01) compared to a medical/science background.

**Conclusion:** The findings highlight factors to consider in designing proactive risk communication strategies during a disease outbreak and the importance of a targeted approach for COVID-19 health communication.

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**Topic 30: Vaccines and Emergence of Vaccine Preventable Diseases**

**OP30.01 (568)**

**Rubella epidemiology in the Central African Republic, 2015-2016 and molecular characterization of virus strains from 2008-2016**

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**Purpose:** The Central African Republic (CAR) has not yet introduced immunization against rubella in its national immunization program. In addition, neither rubella nor congenital rubella syndrome (CRS) are integrated into the epidemiological surveillance system. Rubella virus belongs to the genus Rubivirus in the family Matonaviridae. It is a RNA virus with a single serotype, but 13 genotypes grouped in two clades. With an estimated 100,000 cases worldwide each year, CRS is a major public health problem. The aim of this retrospective study was to investigate rubella epidemiology between 2015 and 2016 and to provide baseline genotype data for monitoring the coming rubella control efforts.

**Methods & Materials:** Sera collected from measles suspected cases between 2015 and 2016 and tested negative or equivocal for measles-specific IgM antibodies were investigated for rubella-specific IgM antibodies using commercially available ELISA kits. To obtain baseline data of the circulating rubella virus genotypes, 350 rubella IgM positive specimens taken within 3 days of rash onset between 2008 and 2016 were submitted to RT-PCR, sequencing of the partial E1 gene and phylogenetic analyses.

**Results:** 831 measles IgM negative or equivocal sera from 2015/2016 were tested for rubella IgM antibodies and 411 (49.5%) of them were rubella IgM positive. Most of the IgM positive cases (n=391, 95.1%) were collected between January and April. Most patients were between 5 and 9 years old (50.2%) and only 18 patients were older than 15 years (4.4%), but 15 of them were females. Sequencing was possible for 37 of the 350 selected rubella IgM-positive specimens. Phylogenetic analysis identified three different genotypes of rubella virus, namely 1E (n=12), 1G (n=5) and 2B (n=20).

**Conclusion:** Our study confirmed the importance of rubella as a cause of rash and fever in CAR and the importance of implementing rubella and CRS surveillance in the country. Our analyses provide comprehensive data on rubella epidemiology and highlight that genotype data may be obtained using samples collected for antibody detection even in very challenging settings.

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**OP30.02 (600)**

**Using an AEFI Parent Diary Card Following Fractional-Dose Yellow Fever (YF) Vaccination in Uganda; a Tool for Consideration for Future Clinical Trials in Low- and Middle-Income Countries**

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**Purpose:** A randomized controlled trial (RCT) study is being conducted in Uganda to determine the safety and immunogenicity of fractional doses of the 17DD yellow fever vaccine in children aged 9 to 23 months. Adverse event(s) following immunization (AEFI) are being monitored through a novel approach for clinical vaccine trial settings in low- and middle-income countries: diary cards completed by participants’ parents during the first 14 days post-vaccination, when 95% of AEFI occur. The cards instruct parents how to use a digital thermometer and record prespecified conditions daily including fever. We assessed parent acceptability of the card along with its ability to obtain comprehensive AEFI data.

**Methods & Materials:** We conducted qualitative surveys of a convenience sample of parents who completed an AEFI diary card