RACGP Infectious Diseases: The prevalence, key threats and costs to organizations

Aims of presentation

- You will:
- Gain a greater understanding of the risks of disease transmission with more common infectionsand emerging diseases, both in Australia and overseas
- Gain an insight into the costs to business of exposure

The culprits: usual suspects

- Seasonal influenza
- Measles, mumps, rubella
- Whooping cough
- Gastroenteritis

The culprits: not your usual garden variety

- Mosquito borne diseases e.g. Ross River virus, Dengue fever, Malaria, Japanese encephalitis
- Blood borne diseases e.g. Hepatitis, HIV
- Sexually transmitted disease e.g. chlamydia, herpes, gonorrhoea, syphilis
- Respiratory disease e.g. influenza (pandemic and seasonal), Tb

Mosquito borne diseases: Australia

•Ross River virus

•Can cause fever, joint pain and rash. May relapse for up to 12 months
•Occurs throughout Australia, PNG and some Pacific islands

Mosquito borne disease

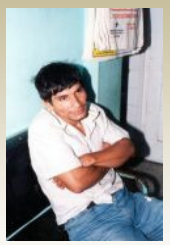
- Dengue fever

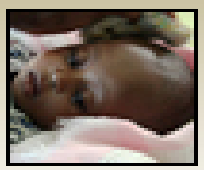
Mosquito borne

- Bairnsdale ulcer (also called Buruli ulcer)
- Can be caused by mosquito bite from an infected mosquito, or wound contaminated with infected soil.

Mosquito borne disease: Overseas

- Malaria



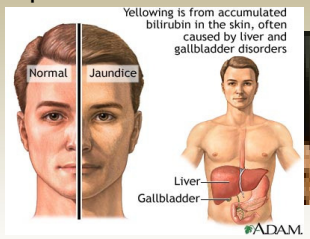


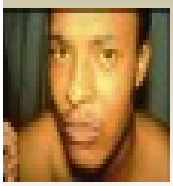
Overseas

- Japanese encephalitis

Blood borne diseases

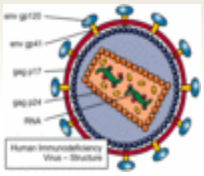
- Hepatitis





Blood borne

- HIV: transmitted through IV drug use and sexual contact.
- Window period of up to 6 months following initial infection
- Breaks down immunity to other diseases, e.g. cancers, fungal infections, Tb



Sexually transmitted diseases

- Includes Chlamydia, Herpes, Gonorrhoea, Syphilis, HIV
- 'Safe sex' may reduce risk, but does not remove all risk
- Staff on overseas postings may be at more risk if guard is down

Respiratory disease

- Influenza: seasonal, pandemic. Accompanied with fever, joint pain, tiredness, cough, sometimes gastro symptoms
- Tb: common overseas. Accompanied with night fevers and sweats, loss of weight, extreme fatigue

Impact of infectious disease

- Personal: financial stress, possible sequelae
- Family: infection of close contacts, financial stress
- Business: sick days lost, productivity affected, cost of temp staff, increased Workcover premiums if work related infection
- Society: morbidity leads to increased health costs (therefore higher taxes)

Business planning

- Know the risks of exposure to your staff
- Plan to reduce risk: education, protective equipment, vaccination where appropriate
- Systems embedded to reduce risk (this is what we do)
- Review systems to ensure they work (PDSA cycle)

Case studies

- **Bank branch in northern Queensland:**
- What diseases are prevalent?
- What can be done to protect staff?
- **Factory employing 2000 staff:**
- How can you protect against seasonal influenza?
- **Staff on scoping exercise to PNG**
- What health preparations need to be taken and when, prior to deployment?