

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (45) in DH SEB CD/8/12/1 Pt.VI

8 November 2014

Dear Doctor,

The Third Local Case of Dengue Fever

Further to our earlier letters on 25 October and 4 November, we would like to draw your attention to the third local case of dengue fever (DF) in Hong Kong and to remind doctors to remain vigilant against this disease.

The third local case of DF in 2014 was confirmed by the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health (DH) on 7 November. The patient was a 36-year-old woman who had onset of symptoms on 2 November 2014. She consulted a private doctor in Tsing Yi and was referred to Princess Margaret Hospital and admitted on 5 November. The patient's blood sample collected on 6 November and received by the laboratory on 7 November was tested positive for dengue virus type 4 on 7 November. She is now clinically stable with low grade fever.

Epidemiological investigation revealed that the patient lives in Chung Mei Lo Uk Village, Sheung Ko Tan Street, Tsing Yi, New Territories (新界青衣上高灘街涌美老屋村), where she recalled mosquito bites. She also recalled mosquito bites in Tsing Yi Northeast Park (TYNEP), Tsing Yi (青衣東北公園). She did not travel outside Hong Kong recently and did not visit the vicinity of the construction site of MTR Sai Ying Pun Station during incubation period. Epidemiological investigation is ongoing.

On the other hand, the blood sample of the second local case was positive for dengue virus type 1. We are highly concerned with the additional case as the epidemiological and laboratory findings are suggestive of more than one source of infection and there might be possible local transmission of dengue virus in other areas of Hong Kong.

It is highly important to define the actual extent and geographical characteristics of local transmission and search for other possible local cases in order to



guide the government preventive and control measures. We, therefore, would like to seek your help to report suspected cases presented with symptoms compatible with DF (see below) regardless of the local movement of the patient.

For suspected cases of DF, please arrange blood test for DF and report the case to Central Notification Office (CENO) of the CHP by fax (2477 2770), by phone (2477 2772), or via the CENO On-line website (<http://www.chp.gov.hk/ceno>). Please also call Medical Control Officer at 7116 3300 a/c 9179 outside office hour for prompt investigation. Please arrange hospital admission for further patient management as necessary. Infected patients with viraemia can be a source of transmission of DF. To prevent further spread of the disease, febrile patients confirmed to have DF should stay in hospital.

A hotline (2125 1122) operating from 9am to 6pm has been set up for public to enquire about their concerns with DF infection.

DF is an acute febrile viral illness characterized by intense headache, retro-orbital pain, myalgia, arthralgia, rash, leucopenia or haemorrhagic manifestations. The disease is transmitted by the bite of infective *Aedes* mosquito, which mostly bites in the daytime. The incubation period ranges from 3 to 14 days. Dengue haemorrhagic fever is a severe and potentially fatal complication of dengue fever. To prevent DF, members of the public should avoid mosquito bites both locally and while visiting DF endemic areas. More information on the disease and further information on DF situation in other areas can be found in the CHP's DF page (www.chp.gov.hk/en/content/9/24/19.html) and the DH's Travel Health Service (www.travelhealth.gov.hk).

Thank you for your ongoing support in combating communicable diseases in Hong Kong.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. SK CHUANG)
for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health