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A REVIEW ARTICLE ON CHIKUNGUNYA

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ABSTRACT

Chikungunya is a mosquito borne viral disease first described during an outreak in southern Tanzania in 1952. It is an RNA virus that belongs to the alpha virus genus of the family Toga viridae. It is characterized by an abrupt onset of fever frequently accompanied by Joint pain. Most patient recovers fully, but in some cases Joint pain may persist for several months or even years.

KEYWORDS: Chikungunya, outreak, viridae.

INTRODUCTION

The derivation of chikungunya came from Tanzania, when there were reports of a dengue like symptoms out break in 1952-53 in Newala and Masasi Districts of Southern province. However, dengue was later excluded on the basis that this epidemic involved patients suffering from debilitating Joint pains and shorter incubation period which are not clinical feature of dengue consequently the illness was called chikungunya. It is transmitted to humans mainly by day biting mosquito species (Aedes). Chikungunya virus contains positive sense single stranded RNA gene, all enclosed in phospholipid bilayer envelope.

Sign and symptoms: - It is characterized an abrupt onset of fever frequently accompanied by Joint pain other common symptoms are:-

- Muscle pain
- Joint pain
- Nausea
- fatigue
- Rash (maculo papular rashes)
- Fever
- Body aches.

Complication

- Heart disease
- Inflammation of eyes in the form of iridocyclitis, uveitis or retinal lesions.
- Neurological disorders - G.B synclrome, flaccid paralysis.
- Neuropathy
- Hemorrhagic complications
- Congestive hepatopahy.

Phases

1) Chronic phase
2) Acute phase

Acute phase - Has two stages

a) Viral stage- During first 5-1 days during which uremia occurs.
b) Convalescent stage - lasting approximately 10 days, during which symptonas improve and the virus cannot be detected in blood.

Diagnosis

- Serological tests such as Elisa
- Presence of Igm & IgG antibodies
- Decreased lymphocyte count consistent with uraemia.

Differential Diagnosis

- Malaria
- Dengue
- Influenza

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