Zika Virus in a Cohort of Canadian Travellers

**Question:** What is the rate of Zika virus infection among Canadian travellers returning from the Americas who presented for care to a Canadian Travel Medicine Network (CanTravNet) site?

**Background:**
- Zika virus acquired in the Americas is being exported globally
- Sexual and congenital transmission of Zika in nonendemic areas are well described
- Data specific to Canadian travellers with Zika infection are sparse

**Study:**
- Included returned Canadian travellers who presented to a CanTravNet site (in 7 large urban centres in 5 provinces) between October 2015 and September 2016, who represented about 15% of travel-acquired illnesses imported to Canada
- Analyzed demographic and travel-related data: purpose of travel, acquisition of illness, symptoms and onset

**Results:**
- **1118 travellers**
  - **41 Zika cases**
  - 41 dengue cases
  - 23 chikungunya cases
  - 2 cases with Guillain–Barré syndrome
  - 1 of which also had Zika viral meningitis
  - **40 by mosquito exposure**
  - **1 by sexual transmission**
  - **3 pregnancies**
  - **2 cases of congenital transmission**

Most cases of Zika:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>In visitors to friends &amp; relatives in South America</th>
<th>In tourists to the Caribbean</th>
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<td>October 2015 to March 2016</td>
<td>April to September 2016</td>
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**Interpretation:**
- Even in this small cohort, authors observed the full clinical spectrum of acute Zika virus, including adverse fetal and neurologic outcomes
- Observations suggest complications from Zika infection may be underestimated by data arising exclusively from populations where Zika is endemic
- Travellers should adhere to mosquito-avoidance measures and use barrier protection during sexual activity

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