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 non-endemic 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 cases of Zika
- 41 dengue cases
- 23 chikungunya cases

Most cases of Zika:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>October 2015 to March 2016</th>
<th>April to September 2016</th>
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<td>In visitors to friends &amp; relatives in South America</td>
<td>In tourists to the Caribbean</td>
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<td>2 cases with Guillain–Barré symptoms</td>
<td>2 cases of congenital transmission</td>
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<td>1 of which also had Zika viral meningitis</td>
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<td>40 cases by mosquito exposure</td>
<td>3 pregnancies</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 case by sexual transmission</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

Source: Boggild AK, Geduld J, Libman M, et al. Surveillance report of Zika virus among Canadian travelers returning from the Americas. CMAJ. 2017;189:E334-40. © 2017 Joule Inc. or its licensors