Conclusion: The levels of previous exposure, the quantum and increasing trends with age and multiple serotypes circulating among children <11 years of age indicate transmission potency and risk of severe disease episodes following secondary infections, even in young children.

There is an urgent need for appropriate interventions to control, diagnose and treat dengue, more sensitive public health surveillance and further research to identify the covariates in dengue disease.

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Type: Poster Presentation

Human ocular dirofilariasis due to Dirofilaria repens: an underdiagnosed entity or emerging filarial disease?

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Background: Dirofilaria are natural filarial parasites of dogs, cats and foxes. Human dirofilariasis is an accidental zoonotic infection caused by species Dirofilaria such as D.immitis, D.tenuis and D.repens. Human ocular dirofilariasis were initially reported from Kerala. But for a solitary case of oral dirofilariasis, it has not been reported from Tamil Nadu. We report a case of subcutaneous human dirofilariasis of the eyelid in a 37 years old woman caused by D. repens.

Methods & Materials: A 37 year old female from urban Chennai with no co-morbidities presented with painless swelling of one month in the right eyelid which had a waxing/waning course. No other ocular or systemic features. No history of animal exposure. Ocular swelling was soft, cystic, non tender. Blood counts were normal with no eosinophilia. Provisional clinico-radiological diagnosis of epidermoid cyst or lacrimal adenitis was made and she underwent excision of lesion. Macroscopic examination revealed soft tissue grey-brown mass. Microscopic examination revealed eosinophils and fragments of adult nematode. Outer surface of the nematode's cuticle revealed longitudinal beaded ridges and transverse striations and was identified as D. repens which was confirmed by CDC. Microfilaraemia and filarial antigen test was negative. She was treated with ivermectin and diethylcarbamazine.

Results: Subcutaneous dirofilariasis is mostly caused by D. repens in Asia. Patients usually present with inflammatory subcutaneous masses containing increased numbers of eosinophils, which may or may not be tender. Ophthalmic involvement may be peri-orbital, subconjunctival, or intraocular. Eosinophilia is not usually present. Diagnosis of dirofilariasis in humans remains difficult as the symptoms exhibited by the patient are varying and nonspecific depending upon the location of worm. Identification of the worm in biopsy confirms diagnosis. Chemotherapeutic agents appear to be ineffective. Surgical removal of the worm is the treatment of choice

Conclusion: A number of cases of human dirofilariasis from areas other than Kerala are being reported. Distribution of human cases of dirofilariasis seems to mirror the distribution of canine cases. Whether there a true increase in cases or were they earlier under reported, undiagnosed or unidentified due lack of awareness among the treating clinicians needs to be determined to know the actual prevalence.

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Type: Poster Presentation

Clinical profile and serological epidemiology of scrub typhus and spotted fever among hospitalized children at a tertiary hospital in South India

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Background: Scrub typhus, a re-emerging rickettsial disease caused by Orientia tsutsugamushi, is an important cause of febrile illness in the Asia-Pacific region. The present study was undertaken