

inant influenza A virus changed almost every season. The ever-changing spectrum of circulating influenza strains and their molecular characteristics support the need for seasonal surveillance of influenza viruses in Shanghai, for more precise information about the circulating strains may have implications for predicting the following season strains and selecting vaccine composition.

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Serological survey on influenza A (H1, H3, H5 and H9) antibodies in human populations in Shanghai, China in 2008 and 2009

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Background: Influenza A is a common respiratory disease in human, and A/H1 and A/H3 are currently co-circulating in the world. Meanwhile, influenza A/H5N1 virus has been spreading throughout South-East Asia and extended to Russia, Europe, Africa, the Indian subcontinent and the Middle East with associated human infections as well as influenza A/H9N2 virus has also caused repeated human infections in Asia since 1998. The periodic serological survey is useful to know the current seroprevalence of human A/H1 and A/H3 influenza antibodies in human population and to provide seroepidemiological information of avian H5, H9 influenza A virus infections in humans in Shanghai.

Methods: Yearly serological surveys were carried out in the occupational exposure personnel (OEP) and general population (GP) in Shanghai from 2008 to 2009. Human A/H1, A/H3 and avian A/H5, A/H9 influenza antibodies were detected using hemagglutination inhibition (HI) assays.

Results: The prevalences of human A/H1 influenza antibodies were 45.3% in 2008 and 64% in 2009 respectively while the prevalences of A/H3 influenza antibodies were 37.4% in 2008 and 40.7% in 2009 respectively. Obviously increasing of anti-H9 antibodies prevalence were observed: 36.3% in 2009, significant higher than 17.7% in 2008 in OEP; 3.3% in 2009, slightly higher than 2.6% in 2008 in GP. However, anti-H5 antibodies prevalence kept relatively stable: 4.0% in 2008 and 3.8% in 2009 in OEP as well as 0.3% in 2008 and 0.3 in 2009 in GP.

Conclusion: The seroprevalences of human H1 and H3 influenza antibodies were consistent with the activities of influenza virus in Shanghai recent years. There were potential human infections with influenza A/H5 and A/H9 in Shanghai, especially in the occupational exposure person-

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A survey of lymphatic filariasis using ICT test in Attapeu Province, Lao PDR

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Background: Baseline observations suggest lymphatic filariasis (LF) is likely to be endemic in parts of Lao PDR. To date in Lao diagnosis has relied on the use of night blood film examination, which through its inconvenient testing time has limited the ability to conduct a regional LF prevalence survey. In Lao's southernmost province of Attapeu, two of the province's five districts have been identified as endemic (>1% prevalence) using night blood film examination. In this study we have conducted a regional survey of the remaining three districts in Attapeu province using immunochromatographic (ICT) filarial test kits. All work was performed in collaboration with the Centre for Malariology, Parasitology and Entomology, Ministry of Health, Lao PDR.

Methods: In August 2009 ICT filariasis tests were performed on 320 adults across the districts of Sanamxai, Samakkhixai and Sanxai in Attapeu province. Sample villages were evenly distributed across each district to ensure geographical spread. Minimum village sample size was 50 persons.

Results: Twenty-two ICT positive cases were identified; 3 in Sanxai ($n=157$ tested), 5 in Samakkhixai ($n=112$ tested) and 14 in Sanamxai ($n=51$ tested). The prevalence per district sample was 1.9% in Sanxai, 4.5% in Samakkhixai and 27.5% in Sanamxai. Night blood film examination was performed on 20 ICT positive cases; of these 2 showed microfilariae on thick blood film. There were no observed cases of elephantiasis or hydrocoele. Cases without contraindications were treated with DEC and/or Albdenazole.

Conclusion: This is the first ICT filariasis test survey performed in Lao PDR. Given that each district showed >1% prevalence, this study's findings support a mass drug administration programme to eliminate filariasis in Attapeu province. The greater convenience and efficacy of the ICT test compared with night blood film examination confers a significant prospect of further LF surveys in Lao.

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