医薬品 研究報告 調査報告書

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が発生	ーデンにおいてPut 生し、2007年Västerb 00人当り313人に至	otten地方の流行性	生腎症患者の数は	日本赤十字社では、輸血感染症対策として問診時に海外渡航歴の 有無を確認し、帰国(入国)後4週間は献血不適としている。今後も引き続き、新興・再興感染症の発生状況等に関する情報の収集に努める。			
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DISPATCHES

Outbreak of Puumala Virus Infection, Sweden

Lisa Pettersson,* Jens Boman,*† Per Juto,*
Magnus Evander,* and Clas Ahlm*

An unexpected and large outbreak of Puumala virus infection in Sweden resulted in 313 nephropathia epidemica patients/100,000 persons in Västerbotten County during 2007. An increase in the rodent population, milder weather, and less snow cover probably contributed to the outbreak.

Members of the genus Hantavirus (family Bunyaviridae) are rodent-borne pathogens, and virus is transmitted to humans by inhalation of infected rodent excreta (1). In Sweden, Finland, Norway, Russia, and parts of central Europe, Puumala virus (PUUV) is endemic in bank voles (Myodes glareolus). PUUV infection in humans cause nephropathia epidemica (NE), a mild form of hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome (HFRS). In Sweden \approx 90% of all NE cases are found in the 4 northernmost counties. Västerbotten County (Figure 1) has the highest incidence of human hantavirus infection in Sweden and probably one of the highest worldwide. Historically, the incidence rate is 20 per 100,000 persons per year (2), but the true incidence is considered to be 7–8 times higher (3).

There is a 3-4-year periodicity in the number of NE cases that is linked to the bank vole population dynamics in northern Sweden (2). After inhaling infectious aerosols originating from rodent saliva, urine, or feces, the patient has a 1-5-week incubation period before onset of disease symptoms. The most common NE symptoms are fever, headache, nausea, abdominal and back pain, vomiting, myalgia, and visual disturbance. One third of the patients have mostly mild hemorrhagic manifestations (4,5). Renal failure is typical with initial oliguria during the acute phase and polyuria in the convalescence phase. Dialysis is sometimes needed and <0.5% of NE cases are fatal. There is no effective treatment or available vaccine.

The Study

The local University Hospital of Umeå is the reference center for diagnosis of NE serving the 4 northernmost counties of Sweden, and many patients with NE are hospitalized here. In 2007, a sudden and large outbreak of hantavirus infections occurred in northern Sweden. The outbreak peaked in January 2007 (Figure 1) with many NE patients who had a considerable effect on public health services.

*Umeå University, Umeå, Sweden; and †County Council of Västerbotten, Umeå, Sweden The NE outbreak continued in the following months, but with fewer cases than in early 2007 (Figure 1).

For NE diagnosis, we used an immunofluorescence assay to detect PUUV-reactive immunoglobulin (Ig) M and IgG antibodies in serum of all patients with clinically suspected NE (6). A real-time reverse transcription—PCR (6) was used to obtain an amplification product from 1 patient sample. This product was sequenced and the S-segment sequence obtained (GenBank accession no. EU177630) was highly homologous to those of other rodent PUUV isolates from the area.

NE is a reportable disease under the Swedish Communicable Diseases Act. The outbreak peaked during the first 3 months of 2007; 972 cases were recorded in Sweden and 474 cases in Västerbotten County. NE patients mostly showed classic HFRS symptoms and mild to severe disease requiring hospitalization and occasionally intensive care. Accordingly, as many as 30% of the patients whose conditions had been diagnosed as NE were hospitalized, and 2 known deaths (case-fatality rate 0.25%) in the 2 northernmost counties in Sweden were recorded during the first 3 months of 2007. No patient had to continue dialysis after the acute phase of the disease.

We detected PUUV RNA in the milk of 2 breastfeeding women with a diagnosis of NE. Their children did not show any clinical symptoms of NE. However, we did not have access to samples to analyze whether the children had asymptomatic infections. Three pregnant women also had received a diagnosis of NE, but no clinical evidence of transmission from mother to child was reported. Analyses of the placentas did not detect any PUUV RNA. Only maternal IgG antibodies to PUUV were found in blood from umbilical cords. One woman miscarried after 12 weeks of pregnancy 3 weeks before showing symptoms of clinical NE, and death of the fetus may have been caused by viremia during the incubation period. During the peak of the outbreak (December 2006-March 2007), 488 cases occurred in Västerbotten County, and, as expected, more men (58%, 281/488) than women (42%, 207/488) had NE; most cases (72%) were among persons 35-74 years of age (Table).

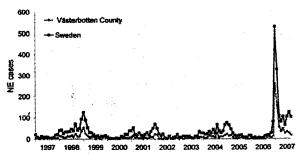


Figure 1. Monthly incidence of nephropathia epidemica (NE) in Sweden and Västerbotten County, Sweden, January 1997–September 2007.

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The incidence of NE in Västerbotten County was 313 diagnosed cases/100,000 persons in 2007 compared with 73/100,000 in 1999, 38/100,000 in 2002, and 61/100,000 in 2005 (Figure 1). The number of NE cases usually depends on the size of the vole population, which peaks every third to fourth year (2,7). An increase in the bank vole population was reported in northern Sweden in the fall of 2006, with a trap index of 7.64. This index is similar to those of 2 NE peaks in the fall of 1998–1999 and 2004–2005 when trap indices were ≈ 8 (8). Trapping indices represents the number of voles captured per 100 trapping nights, a reflection of the relative population size on each sampling occasion (9). Thus, the bank vole population was high, but not more than in previous peak years and could not explain the high number of NE cases in 2007.

We considered other possible factors influencing hantavirus transmission to humans. One factor is increased exposure of humans to infected rodent excreta. We had received several reports from inhabitants in areas where bank voles normally live that more bank voles were found in traps inside houses than usual. When we investigated the weather conditions during this period, December 2006 was exceptional with respect to the mild weather with no or little snow and hard ice cover in the coastal area of northern Sweden, In Vasterbotten County, the average temperature in December was 6.0°C-9.0°C warmer than normal (normally the average temperature in Vasterbotten County varies by 4°C along the coast and -13°C in the mountains) The average temperature in Sweden was 4:50C=9.5°C warmer than normal in December 2006 (Figure 2). The snow cover during winter is important for bank vole survival because bank voles have access to food below the snow and hide from predators and the cold (10). During 2 previous NE peak periods (2001-2002 and 2004-2005), the ground was already covered with snow in early winter (Figure 2). For these reasons, during December: 2006, when the ground had no snow cover for 25 of 31 days (Figure 2), bank voles may have sought refuge in barns and houses and other buildings, thereby increasing the exposure for the human population at risk. A concurrent epizootic may have occurred among bank voles, which resulted in larger

Age group, y	No. (%) cases
41-4	1 (0.20)
5–14	16 (3:3)
15-24	34 (7.0)
25-34	48 (9.8)
35-44	82 (17)
45–54	89 (18)
55-64	103 (21)
65–74	78 (16)
75-84	32 (6,6)
85-94	5 (1.0)

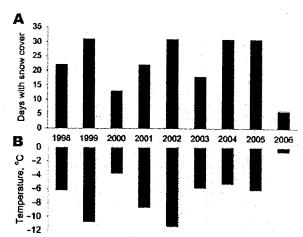


Figure 2. Climate conditions, December 1998–2006, in the nephropathia epidemica outbreak area of Västerbotten County, Sweden. A) Number of days with a snow cover. B) Average temperature. Snow cover was defined as a snow depth >0 cm. Measurements were made in locations ≈30 km from the coast. Data were obtained from the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute.

numbers of infectious animals, as shown in previous rodent studies (11,12). However, we did not have access to rodents during this period and this hypothesis needs to be studied.

Conclusions

This report shows how a zoonotic disease can suddenly result in an unexpected and large human outbreak. Presently, the numbers of NE cases in northern Sweden are still unusually high. Data indicate that the bank vole population during the fall of 2007 increased to an even higher level and a new outbreak is forecasted (8). However, the size of the rodent population is not the only factor that determines the size of a hantavirus epidemic. As shown in this report, climate factors may have contributed to the recent large outbreak in northern Sweden.

This study was supported by the county councils of northern Sweden and the medical faculty of Umea University.

Dr Pettersson is a clinical virologist working at the Umea University Hospital. Her major research interest is the biology and epidemiology of hantaviruses.

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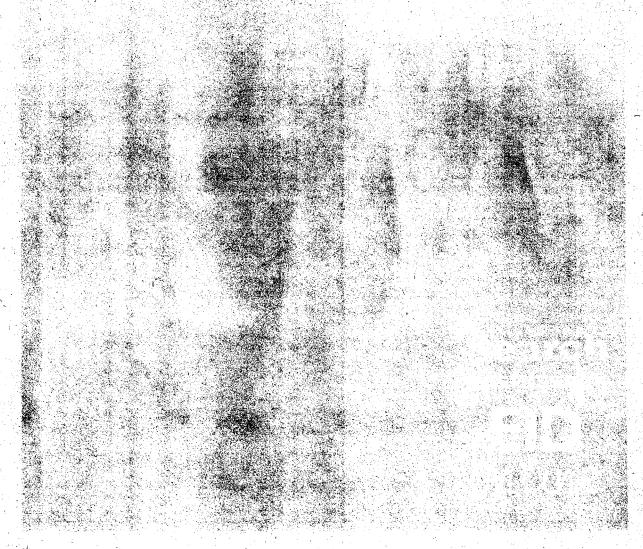
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識別番号·報告回数				報告日	第一報入手日	新医薬品等の区分		総合機構処理欄
一般的名称		_		研究 報告	http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2008/05/13/ l_dies_1_ill_after_receiving_kidneys?mode=PF		公表国	
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報告企業の意見					今後の対応			
リンパ球性脈絡髄膜炎ウイルスは、エンベロープを有するアレナウイルス科の RNA ウイルスで、直径 60~280nm の多形性であるので、ウイルス除去膜処理、加熱処理などにより、物理的除去又は不活化されると考えられる。			イルスで、直 ウイルス除去	今後とも、リンパ球性脈絡髄膜炎ウイルスに関する情報に留意していく。				

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THIS STORY HAS BEEN FORMATTED FOR EASY PRINTING

1 dies, 1 ill after receiving kidneys

The Boston Globe

Donor infected with hard-to-find virus

By Stephen Smith, Globe Staff | May 13, 2008

A 70-year-old woman has died, and a 57-year-old man is critically ill in a Boston hospital after each received a kidney from a donor infected with a hard-to-detect virus, health authorities said yesterday.

The donor, a 49-year-old homeless man who suffered irreversible brain damage after cardiac arrest, carried a germ called lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus, or LCMV, the same infection that killed three transplant patients from Massachusetts and Rhode Island in 2005. The virus, most often transmitted by rodents, is usually unnoticed by healthy people who suffer no more than flulike symptoms.

Knowing that organs perish quickly, doctors test donors for what is easily analyzed, such as the AIDS virus, hepatitis, and a common herpes germ. But the lack of quick tests for less common conditions prevents screening for diseases such as the lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus.

Because the demand for organs always far exceeds the supply, recipients will accept organs even from high-risk donors such as the homeless. Waiting too long for a new kidney, liver, or heart can prove riskier.

"People are literally dying for organs," said Dr. Alfred DeMaria, top disease tracker at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. "The list of potential things you can test for is enormous. But balancing that against the risk of not getting the organs, you have to make some decisions about what's feasible and what's not feasible to test for."

The homeless donor died in mid-March. After his family authorized the removal of viable organs, doctors took his kidneys. He had been tested for the AIDS virus, the liver diseases hepatitis B and C, and other diseases regularly checked by the New England Organ Bank, the region's organ procurement agency. There was no evidence of worrisome infections.

Still, his status as a man who had lived on the street, potentially exposed to a host of dangerous germs, led transplant surgeons to brand him as a high-risk donor.

Transplant surgeons at the hospitals with the two potential recipients - the woman was at Boston Medical Center, the man at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center - alerted the patients that the donor was regarded as high risk. The surgeons and patients decided to proceed.

"We all know that as much as we explain to the patients and inform them, they're relying on us and our medical judgment about whether this is a safe transplant," said Dr. Douglas W. Hanto, chief of the Division of Transplantation at Beth Israel Deaconess. "We feel a tremendous sense of responsibility to the patient and their family and feel terrible that this patient has had this infection and a bad outcome.

"But, on the other hand, we see patients who die every day on dialysis" awaiting a kidney transplant, he said.

The 57-year-old man transplanted at Hanto's hospital had lingered four years on the waiting list for a kidney. According to the United Network for Organ Sharing, an independent agency that sets organ procurement policies, 80,130 patients in the United States currently need a kidney.

It was the woman transplanted at Boston Medical who got sicker sooner after returning home. Like the donor and the other recipient, the woman was not identified by health authorities, who cited patient confidentiality laws.

The woman returned to Boston Medical about two weeks after her surgery, said Dr. Greg Grillone, the hospital's interim chief medical officer. She had a fever, diarrhea, "but oddly, symptoms not specific to the kidney," Grillone said.

Her condition kept deteriorating and, in mid-April, the woman died. Doctors at the hospital were stumped. There was no obvious cause of her precipitous demise.

But it turned out that one of the surgeons involved in the case, Dr. Amitabh Gautam, had been connected to

the 2005 Rhode Island and Massachusetts transplant cases.

He became suspicious that the Boston Medical patient had the same virus and alerted the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The virus has been known to have spread via transplant only two other times, in Wisconsin and Australia.

"Interestingly, what happened was this doctor had seen this before and thought, 'OK, this is a long shot, but I have seen it before and it can happen,' " Grillone said.

"If you take your car to the auto dealer with some very, very rare problem and you're lucky enough to get the mechanic who saw that same problem three years ago in the same make or model of the car, he might think: 'Oh, I saw this same problem three years ago. it might be the same problem," he said.

The man who had received his kidney at Beth Israel Deaconess returned with a fever 2 1/2 weeks after the surgery. On April 18, the doctors there got word that the Boston Medical patient had died. A transplant specialist at Beth Israel Deaconess also speculated that the virus might be at fault.

Samples from the deceased donor and the two patients were rushed to the CDC in Atlanta. All three tested positive for the virus, and investigators said all evidence points to the donor. The 57-year-old recipient remains in intensive care and is receiving the only drug known to possibly treat the virus.

"I don't believe this ever put the general public at risk," said Dr. Anita Barry, who leads the Boston Public Health Commission's investigation of the infections. "You have to be very, very unlucky to get LCMV from a transplant."

The virus is not transmitted casually from person-to-person; in addition to transplants, the only identified human transmissions have been from mother to fetus. Most people who are exposed catch it from the droppings of rodents, including wild animals and pets.

Because the virus causes few health problems in those who contract it, there has been little incentive to develop a rapid test.

The only tests currently available take time and are not widely available, said Dr. Eileen Farnon, a CDC medical epidemiologist.

"If you had a few days or a week for testing you could do that," Farnon said. "But in general that's not how the organ transplantation business works."

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