



Call for papers: special issue on the epidemiology of leishmaniasis in Europe

***Eurosurveillance* invites authors to submit papers for a special issue on the surveillance and epidemiology of leishmaniasis in Europe.**

Leishmaniasis, a vector-borne disease transmitted by sand flies, is endemic in southern European countries. Autochthonous cases in Europe are mainly due to infection with *Leishmania infantum*, which causes zoonotic visceral and cutaneous leishmaniasis. *L. tropica*, endemic only in Greece with a sporadic pattern, causes anthroponotic cutaneous leishmaniasis. Dogs are the main reservoir for *L. infantum*. Most reported cases have visceral leishmaniasis. A publication in 2008, in *Emerging Infectious Diseases* [1], estimated that annually around 700 new clinical cases of leishmaniasis are reported in European Union (EU) countries. Asymptomatic cases are thought to be many more, with an estimated ratio of >100 asymptomatic:1 clinical case [2]. Many of the EU countries where the disease is endemic are tourist destinations and there is evidence that a number of leishmaniasis cases diagnosed in non-endemic countries are imported from within the continent. The disease is notifiable in a number of endemic and non-endemic countries in Europe; however, surveillance varies and under-reporting appears to be frequent, especially for the benign forms of cutaneous leishmaniasis.

The aim of the special issue is to contribute to the existing body of evidence and to make available data that can help paint a better picture of the epidemiological situation and burden of autochthonous leishmaniasis in Europe. We invite interested scientists and public health experts to share their surveillance data, findings and views and submit original papers for peer review and possible publication.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- results from surveillance of visceral and cutaneous leishmaniasis in endemic and non-endemic countries, including trends in age groups affected and the impact of HIV co-infection, organ transplantation, and therapies of immunological disorders on the development and outcome of disease;
- information on the distribution of the vector and reservoir;
- analysis of treatment-associated costs;
- control measures implemented successfully to stop the spread of disease;
- issues related to the detection and identification of cases.

The submission deadline is **15 July 2012**. If you would like to submit a paper or ask for more information, please see our instructions for authors and contact the editorial team at eurosurveillance@ecdc.europa.eu.

References

1. Dujardin JC, Campino L, Cañavate C, Dedet JP, Gradoni L, Soteriadou K, et al. Spread of vector-borne diseases and neglect of Leishmaniasis, Europe. *Emerg Infect Dis.* 2008;14(7):1013-8.
2. Michel G, Pomares C, Ferrua B, Marty P. Importance of worldwide asymptomatic carriers of *Leishmania infantum* (*L. chagasi*) in human. *Acta Trop.* 2011;119(2-3):69-75.

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Timely publication of short authoritative papers on ongoing outbreaks or other relevant public health events is one of the major assets of the journal.

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