

LONDON
SCHOOL of
HYGIENE
& TROPICAL
MEDICINE



Dance, D (2016) Melioidosis parotitis in children. *The journal of venomous animals and toxins including tropical diseases*, 22. p. 1. ISSN 1678-9199 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40409-016-0088-1>

Downloaded from: <http://researchonline.lshtm.ac.uk/3983519/>

DOI: [10.1186/s40409-016-0088-1](https://doi.org/10.1186/s40409-016-0088-1)

Usage Guidelines

Please refer to usage guidelines at <http://researchonline.lshtm.ac.uk/policies.html> or alternatively contact researchonline@lshtm.ac.uk.

Available under license: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.5/>

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Open Access



Melioidosis parotitis in children

David Dance^{1,2,3}

Abstract

A recent paper published in *JVATTD* reporting a child in Hainan with parotitis caused by *Burkholderia pseudomallei* misleadingly described parotitis as a rare manifestation of melioidosis. In fact, it is one of the commonest forms of paediatric melioidosis seen in other parts of Southeast Asia, although interestingly not in Australia.

Keywords: Melioidosis, Parotitis, *B. pseudomallei*, Paediatric, Children

To: The Editor, *Journal of Venomous Animals and Toxins including Tropical Diseases*

Sir,

Melioidosis (*Burkholderia pseudomallei* infection) is an important public health problem in some parts of the world. The incidence has probably been grossly underestimated in the past [1], so it is encouraging that reports have recently begun to emerge from several countries across the tropics, including Hainan island in China [2–4]. The most recent such report, published in your journal, related to a case of parotitis in a child [5]. Unfortunately, this report contained a highly misleading statement about melioidosis parotitis, namely that it was rare and had only been reported following systemic melioidosis. In fact it has been known for many years that parotitis is one of the commonest manifestations of melioidosis in children in SE Asia [6, 7], although interestingly not in Australia [8]. This should have been revealed by a simple literature search using the terms ‘melioidosis’ and ‘parotitis’ – a PubMed search using these terms on 14th November 2016 yielded 16 ‘hits’ including the references cited above.

Whilst I am sure that this was a genuine mistake, I think it is important that this misleading impression is corrected.

Yours sincerely

Prof. David Dance, MB, ChB, MSc, FRCPath

Author details

¹Senior Clinical Research Fellow/Consultant Microbiologist, Lao-Oxford-Mahosot Hospital-Wellcome Trust Research Unit (LOMWRU), Department of Microbiology, Mahosot Hospital, Vientiane, Lao PDR. ²Centre for Tropical Medicine & Global Health, Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine, University of Oxford, Oxford, England, UK. ³Honorary Professor, Faculty of Infectious and Tropical Diseases, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, England, UK.

Received: 27 November 2016 Accepted: 30 November 2016

Published online: 05 December 2016

References

1. Limmathurotsakul D, Golding N, Dance DAB, Messina JP, Pigott DM, Moyes CL, et al. Predicted global distribution of *Burkholderia pseudomallei* and burden of melioidosis. *Nat Microbiol*. 2016;1:15008.
2. Fang Y, Chen H, Li YL, Li Q, Ye ZJ, Mao XH. Melioidosis in Hainan, China: a retrospective study. *Trans R Soc Trop Med Hyg*. 2015;109(10):636–42.
3. Fang Y, Chen H, Zhu X, Mao X. Fatal melioidosis in a newborn from Hainan, China. *Am J Trop Med Hyg*. 2016;95(2):444–6.
4. Wang XM, Zheng X, Wu H, Zhou XJ, Kuang HH, Guo HL, et al. Multilocus sequence typing of clinical isolates of *Burkholderia pseudomallei* collected in Hainan, a tropical island of southern China. *Am J Trop Med Hyg*. 2016;95(4):760–4.
5. Fu Z, Lin Y, Wu Q, Xia Q. Pediatric suppurative parotitis caused by *Burkholderia pseudomallei*. *J Venom Anim Toxins incl Trop Dis*. 2016;22:31.
6. Dance DAB, Davis TM, Wattanagoon Y, Chaowagul W, Saiphan P, Looareesuwan S, et al. Acute suppurative parotitis caused by *Pseudomonas pseudomallei* in children. *J Infect Dis*. 1989;159(4):654–60.
7. Stoesser N, Pocock J, Moore CE, Soeng S, Chhat HP, Sar P, et al. Pediatric suppurative parotitis in Cambodia between 2007 and 2011. *Pediatr Infect Dis J*. 2012;31(8):865–8.
8. Edmond KM, Bauert P, Currie BJ. Paediatric melioidosis in the northern territory of Australia: an expanding clinical spectrum. *J Paediatr Child Health*. 2001;37(4):337–41.

Correspondence: David.d@tropmedres.ac

¹Senior Clinical Research Fellow/Consultant Microbiologist, Lao-Oxford-Mahosot Hospital-Wellcome Trust Research Unit (LOMWRU), Department of Microbiology, Mahosot Hospital, Vientiane, Lao PDR

²Centre for Tropical Medicine & Global Health, Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine, University of Oxford, Oxford, England, UK

Full list of author information is available at the end of the article



© The Author(s). 2016 **Open Access** This article is distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons license, and indicate if changes were made. The Creative Commons Public Domain Dedication waiver (<http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/>) applies to the data made available in this article, unless otherwise stated.