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ABSTRACTS FOR ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Situation of Melioidosis in Tuaran (2017)

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Background: Melioidosis an infectious disease caused by gram-negative bacteria, Burkholderia pseudomallei is highly endemic in Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and parts of northern Australia. The district of Tuaran which is located on the west coast of Sabah had reported an increasing trend of Melioidosis cases where in 2017, a total of 19 cases were reported, more than doubling the number of cases reported the prior year (7 cases). **Objective:** The aim of the study was to describe the epidemiology of Melioidosis in Tuaran for the year 2017. **Methods:** Descriptive study was done by using data obtained from Tuaran District Health Office. **Results:** In 2017, a total of 19 cases of Melioidosis were notified and registered under Tuaran District Health Office. Among the 19 cases reported 16 were Malaysian. The incidence rate was 14.5/ 100,000 populations. Cases were registered from 12 divisions areas of Tuaran with the majority of cases were reported from the areas of Kiulu, Berungis and Serusop. Among the cases reported, majority had risk of being exposed to the pathogen via work-related activities such as fishing, construction, welding (37%), gardening and cleaning at home ground area (32%). Mortality among those cases were also reported to be high (CFR: 47.3%) and 55% of the mortality cases had pre-existing medical conditions or co-morbidities. Sampling of soil and water was conducted. However, unable to determine the source of infection for the majority of cases as only 1 case had positive findings. **Conclusion:** Assessment of the environmental load of B. pseudomallei is fundamental to define geographical areas in Tuaran where humans and animals are at risk as overall mortality due to Melioidosis is extremely high.