

30 th ICOH Congress Cancun 2012
Special Session SS075
Occupational Infectious Diseases

Occupational Infectious Diseases in Argentina

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Introduction

Argentina

- Federal Republic of 23 provinces
- 8th largest country in the world.
- 2nd largest country in South America and the largest among Spanish speaking nations.
- The climate is temperate and ranges from subtropical in the north to subpolar in the far south.
- Population (2010): 41 million



Introduction

In Argentina, Occupational Infectious Diseases are included in an official closed list of occupational diseases edited by the Executive Power.

Introduction

Occupational diseases caused by non-included infectious agents have to be presented to an official Medical Commission, that considers each individual case to determine the occupational origin of the disease.

Introduction

This Medical Commission is not allowed to include new agents in the list.

Introduction

Only the Executive Power is allowed to include new agents in the closed list.

Methods

Methods

Argentinian Legislation and official statistics from the Ministry of Labor have been revised and analyzed in a descriptive study

Results

Results

Only 17 infectious agents were included in the original list of 1996.

- *Brucella*
- *Hepatitis A virus*
- *Hepatitis B/C virus*
- *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*
- *Bacillus anthracis*
- *Leptospira*
- *Chlamydia psittaci*
- *Histoplasma capsulatum*
- *Echinococcus granulosus*
- *Plasmodium*
- *Leishmania donovani chagasi*
- *Yellow fever virus*
- *Haemorrhagic fever viruses*
- *Cytomegalovirus*
- *HIV/AIDS*
- *Herpes simplex virus*
- *Candida Albicans*

Results

In 2000, two more endemic infectious agents were included: Hantavirus and *Tripanosoma Cruzi* (Chagas disease)

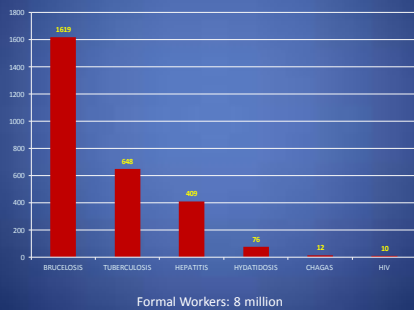
Results

- Between 1996 and 2010, the most frequent occupational infectious disease reported in Argentina was Brucellosis, a zoonosis related to cattle farm workers, slaughter house operators, goat cheese industry, veterinarians (auto-inoculation with vaccine) and laboratory professionals and workers.

Results

- The second most frequent occupational infectious disease reported in Argentina in the same period was Tuberculosis (multidrug-resistant) related to Health Care Workers.

Occupational Infectious Diseases reported in Argentina: 2006-2010



Discussion

Discussion

- Cattle farming, meat processing, meat industry and milk industry are very important activities in Argentina related to exposure to brucella infection.

Discussion

- Occupational infectious diseases are under-reported in Argentina:
 - Occupational infectious diseases are unknown by many employers and workers
 - 30% of workers are informal workers not covered by Occupational Health Services.
 - Health care workers and veterinarians don't like to report occupational diseases.

Discussion

- Many Health Care Workers' Occupational Infectious Diseases are not included in the list:
 - Mumps
 - Chickenpox
 - Measles
 - Influenza
 - Tetanus
 - Etc

Discussion

- Dengue Fever is a viral urban and rural re-emerging endemic disease in Argentina (Vector: *Aedes aegypti*) not included in the List of Occupational Diseases



Conclusions

Conclusions

The closed list of occupational infectious diseases in Argentina should be revised by the Executive Power and new emerging and re-emerging occupational infectious agents and health care workers' biological hazards should be included.

Conclusions

Employers and workers should be educated and trained in the acknowledgment of occupational infectious diseases.

Thank you
Muchas gracias

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