Abstract

Title:
The incidence and demographics of patients admitted to Tully Hospital, Far North Queensland with leptospirosis.

Objective:
To determine the incidence and demographics of patients admitted to Tully Hospital with leptospirosis. Identify the most common clinical features among leptospirosis presentations.

Method:
Retrospective chart review was completed on patients admitted Tully Hospital with Leptospirosis between 1st July 2010 and 31st December 2012. 82 patient UR numbers were generated by a HBCIS search. All patients were cross-matched with AUSLAB and 28 patients met the inclusion criteria. Demographic data collected included age, gender, ethnicity, place of residence and occupation. A chart review was also done to collect patient’s presenting symptoms.

Results:
28 patients were admitted with Leptospirosis during the time frame. Within this group, 85.71% were males with a male to female ratio of 24:4. The median age was 30 years old. Banana farmers accounted for 75% of all admissions and the month of March exhibited the highest number of cases, with 7 admissions. The most common clinical features identified were fever (92.85%), headache (75%), myalgia/arthralgia (60.71%) and nausea/vomiting (53.57%).

Conclusion:
There is a strong link to patient demographics and the epidemiology of the disease. Ongoing disease surveillance will advance our understanding of risk factors and hopefully result in future population prevention strategies.