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Seroepidemiology of neutralizing antibodies to Japanese encephalitis virus in Singapore: continued transmission despite abolishment of pignext term farming?

Abstract -

Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) transmission in Singapore appeared to have ceased after previous term pignext term farming in Singapore was phased out from the early 1980s. However, the recent detection of neutralizing antibodies to JEV in a population of wild boars in an offshore island, as well as the notification of two human cases of JE in Singapore in 2001, prompted us to reconsider the presence and hence the public health threat of JEV in Singapore. We report here a serological study of animals, birds and humans for neutralizing antibodies to JEV. The results indicate that JEV may still be actively transmitted in the peripheral part of the Singapore island and that regular serological surveys of farm animals and birds, such as chickens, may be useful to further elucidate the activity of JEV in Singapore.

Key words

: Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV); Neutralizing antibodies; Seroprevalence

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