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Poster Abstracts**



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**Illness in Pediatric Migrants to Canada: Surveillance Report from CanTravNet, April 2015 — March 2018**

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**Background:** Children represent a vulnerable sub-group of migrants to Canada. There are few data on the spectrum of imported infectious diseases in this group. We describe the imported infections seen in pediatric migrants presenting to a CanTravNet centre over a 3-year period, and their demographic characteristics.

**Methods:** Data on all pediatric migrants to Canada presenting to a CanTravNet site between April 2015 and March 2018 were analyzed. CanTravNet constitutes the Canadian sites within the GeoSentinel network, a global surveillance network of travel and migrant associated health conditions.

**Results:** Of 1146 migrants in the CanTravNet database over the enrolment period, 87 (7.6%) were aged under 18 years. Top diagnoses in this population included: malaria (n=26, 29.9%), schistosomiasis (n=21, 24.1%), strongyloidiasis (n=10, 11.5%), cutaneous leishmaniasis (n=9, 10.3%), and giardiasis (n=9, 10.3%). Amongst cases of malaria, *P. falciparum* accounted for 85% (n=22). Median age of the returned pediatric migrants was 10 years (range < 1-17 years; IQR 5-13 years), with males accounting for 46% of cases (n=40). Source countries of illness in pediatric migrants were diverse (n=36); the Democratic Republic of the Congo was the most well represented source country, accounting for 8 cases (9.2%), followed by Guinea (n=7, 8%), Tanzania (n=6, 6.9%), Thailand (n=5, 5.7%), and Uganda (n=5, 5.7%).

**Conclusions:** Malaria remains the top specific etiologic cause of illness in pediatric migrants evaluated at CanTravNet sites over a 3-year period, the vast majority of which were caused by potentially life-threatening *P. falciparum* infection, reinforcing the need for prompt exclusion of malaria when encountering febrile pediatric migrants. Top causes of infections in this population were all parasitic, which has implications for screening guidance. Four of the top 5 source countries for pediatric migrants to Canada were from areas of sub-Saharan Africa endemic for malaria, soil-transmitted helminths and schistosomiasis. Efforts should be made to target this vulnerable population for prevention measures.