

P 69 Boutonneuse fever in Romania – an update

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Tick numbers and tick behaviour have been changing due to global warming, followed by an increase of tick bites in the human population. The most frequent tick-borne diseases in Romania are Boutonneuse fever (BF) and Lyme disease, but in the climatological context also the risk of emergence of other tick-borne diseases has been increasing, mainly for Crimean Congo haemorrhagic fever and tick-borne encephalitis (recent outbreaks in Turkey and Greece, respectively). There have been increasing numbers of patients bitten by ticks in the last years.

This is a retrospective study of epidemiological, clinical, and diagnostic issues of the BF cases admitted in the Clinical Hospital of Infectious and Tropical Diseases "Dr. V. Babes", Bucharest, from 2004 to 2010.

There were 86 BF cases. The age interval ranged between 1 and 75 years (mean value 46.9 years). Fifty BF cases were recorded during summer, but cases also occurred in the autumn and during winter. Eighty-one BF cases had epidemiological risk factors. The clinical manifestation of BF were fever, myalgia, rash (n=77), tache noire (n=40), and conjunctival hyperaemia (n=4). Laboratory findings in BF cases were increased neutrophils count (n=49) and ALAT value (n=65) and thrombocytopenia (n=57). The ELISA test for *Rickettsia conorii* was positive in 75 cases. Patients were treated with chloramphenicol (n=33), doxycycline (n=25), ciprofloxacin (n=10), clarithromycin (n=4), or antibiotic associations (n=14). Eight BF cases presented encephalitis, and one of them died.

BF has maintained its characteristic summer seasonality, but some cases have occurred in the autumn and winter months in the last 2 years. A total of 87% of cases had a positive serology for *Rickettsia conorii*. Neurological manifestations occurred in 9% of cases.