

MELIOIDOSIS IN SOUTHERN INDIA: EPIDEMIOLOGICAL AND CLINICAL PROFILE

K Saravu¹, C Mukhopadhyay², S Vishwanath¹, R Valsalan¹, M Docherla¹,
KE Vandana², BA Shastry¹, I Bairy² and SP Rao²

¹Department of Medicine, ²Department of Microbiology, Kasturba Medical College,
Manipal University, Karnataka, India

Abstract. Melioidosis, which is mainly prevalent in Thailand and Australia, has shown an increasing trend in India in the last few years. We carried out a retrospective study of 25 culture-proven adult cases of melioidosis who were admitted to a tertiary care hospital in southern India during June 2001 to September 2007. There was a six-fold increase in the number of cases in 2006 and 2007 as compared to 2001. Diabetes mellitus was the predisposing factor in 68% of cases, followed by alcoholism (28%). The clinical presentations were fever (80%), pneumonia and/or pleural effusion (48%), hepatomegaly (56%), joint involvement, and/or osteomyelitis (48%), splenomegaly (40%), splenic abscess (24%) and septicemia (28%). The organism, *Burkholderia pseudomallei*, was sensitive to co-amoxiclav, cotrimoxazole, ceftazidime, and carbapenem. The study suggests that melioidosis is an emerging infectious disease in the southwestern coastal belt of India, and it is likely to happen at much higher incidence.

Key words: melioidosis, epidemiology, clinical profile, India

Correspondence: Dr Kavitha Saravu,
Makaranda, Maruthinagar, 2nd Cross Settibettu
Road, Parkala 576107
Tel: +91 94481 07636; Fax: +91 82025 71934
E-mail: kavithasaravu@yahoo.com

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