# Epidemiology of Respiratory Tract Infections

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# Smallpox

- An acute contagious disease caused by variola virus
- The only disease to have been eradicated by medical science globally.
  - The last known naturally occurring case of smallpox occurred in Somalia on 26 Oct 1977.
  - Subsequently, two cases due to accidental laboratory infections were reported from England in 1978.
  - A little over two year later smallpox officially was declared eradicated by the World Health Organization in 1980.

- In 1976, there were 76 laboratories through out the world that officially kept stocks of Smallpox virus.
- ▶ By 1980, the number was reduced to six laboratories.
- In 1983, the number was down to *two WHO* collaborating centers.
  - The US Laboratory in Atlanta, Georgia, (USA) and
  - · The Research Centre of Virology, Koltsovo, Russia.

- The *two strategies* used for the eradication of
- > Mass vaccination and
- > Surveillance containment of the disease.

- Eradication was also facilitated by Following epidemiological features of smallpox:
- > No known animal reservoir.
- > No long term carriers
- > Recovery from infection provides *Stable life long immunity*.
- > Detection of cases of smallpox was relatively simple
  - > the rash was so characteristic and occurred on the visible parts of the body.
- > An extremely effective and stable vaccine which provided long term immunity.
- > Surveillence & Containment
- International Co-operation

## Is Smallpox a Threat Today?

- In 1979, WHO recommended that vaccination against smallpox be stopped in all countries.
- By 1986, routine vaccination had ceased in all countries.
- The eradication of smallpox was defined by successive WHO expert groups as "the elimination of clinical illness caused by variola virus".
- An important corollary of this definition was that it did not involve the extinction of variola virus.

- However, there have been no cases of smallpox from any source for over thirty eight years.
- Fears of conversion of animal viruses like monkeypox to the smallpox virus have been discounted.
- Currently, the only credible sources of the virus are the stocks held in the two WHO Collaborating Centres in the United States and Russia.
- Therefore, other than the *use of the virus as a biological weapon,* there appears to be little reason to fear the return of smallpox.

### Chicken Pox

- An acute, highly contagious which occurs mostly in
- ▶ Worldwide distribution —Globally 4.2 m complications & 4200 deaths
- ▶ India-30,000 cases &70 deaths CFR-
- It results from primary infection by the *Varicella* zoster virus.
  - The virus is capable of remaining latent in the neural ganglia.
  - *Reactivation* of the latent virus causes *Herpes zoster*.

- World wide.
- In *temperate countries* more than 95% of adults have antibodies against the virus.
- Childhood infection rates are somewhat lower in tropical countries but adult infection rates are higher.
- Chickenpox occurs in both endemic and epidemic forms in India.

- The Varicella zoster virus is virus of the Herpesviridae family.
- Humans are the only known hosts of the virus.
- It is primarily a disease of childhood particularly in temperate countries where 90% of cases occur before 13 years of age.
- In tropical countries, it is more a disease of young adults.
- ▶ The virus exhibits no gender or ethnic group predilection.
- Natural infection confers lifelong immunity.

- ▶ The virus can remain *latent in sensory root ganglia*.
- Any reduction in cell mediated immunity can result in reactivation of the virus which causes Herpes zoster. The disease occurs with greater severity among adults, newborn infants, immunocompromised children and pregnant women.
- Mortality rates in normal young children are estimated to be less than 02 per 100,000. Mortality risk for adults is 15 times higher.

- The source of infection is almost always a case of chickenpox as subclinical cases are rare (less than 5%).
- Transmission is through direct contact or air borne spread of infected droplets or droplet nuclei.
- ▶ The vesicle fluid is infective.
- The portal of entry for the virus the upper respiratory tract.
- Patients are *infective from one to two days before onset* of rash to five days after first appearance of rash.
- Dry scabs are not infective.

- Extremely contagious.
- Secondary attack rates are typically over 90% among susceptible household contacts.
- ▶ The virus can *cross the placental barrier*.
- Maternal infection in first trimester can give rise to congenital varicella syndrome.
- Maternal infection just prior to delivery may result in neonatal varicella which carries high mortality.

▶ Incubation period -01-03 week(usually 13 to 17) days.

▶ Period of communicability: 1-2 days before appearance of rashes to 4-5 days thereafter.

- Varicella Zoster IG given within 72 hours of exposure im12.5units/kg B Wt(max.625units), Repeat dose in 03 weeks
- Live attenuated Vaccine− Monovalent −02 doses (>\_13 years)
  MMRV −02 doses (09 mon−12 years)

#### C. I. – Pregnant & Immunocommpromised

- Notifications
- Isolation of cases
- Disinfection of articles
- Antiviral drugs e.g. *Acyclovir for contacts*.

# Rubella

- German measles or "03 day measles"
- A mild childhood disease.
- However, infection during early pregnancy may cause feotal death or the congenital rubella syndrome(CRS).

- ▶ Before the advent of widespread vaccination in developed countries epidemics of rubella occurred every 6 - 9 years and large scale epidemics at intervals of 30 years.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that more than *1,00,000 cases of congenital rubella syndrome(2016)* occur each year in developing countries alone.

- ▶ Before the introduction of rubella vaccine the incidence of congenital rubella syndrome varied from 0.1 0.2 per 1,000 live births.
- In India, *appr.10–15% women* reached childbearing age without developing immunity against rubella virus and were *at high risk of contracting infection during pregnancy.*

- ▶ RNA virus-genus *Rubivirus* from the *family Togaviridae*.
- ▶ Humans are the *only known reservoir*.
- In the pre − vaccine era, the peak age of incidence was in the 5 − 9 years age group.
- With *widespread childhood vaccination* in the developed countries, the frequency of rubella has increased in the older age groups.

- ▶ The disease exhibits a seasonal pattern.
- In temperate countries seasonal peaks of the disease are seen in *late winter and spring*, though infection remains endemic through the year.
- ▶ Rubella virus is transmitted by the respiratory route.
- Sub clinical cases are important factors in disease transmission.

- Cases are infective from 10 days before to 15 days after onset of rashes.
- ▶ Incubation period-12-23 days,(av-18 days).

#### Congenital Rubella Syndrome (CRS):

- Triad of deafness, cardiac defect and cataract.
- The risk of congenital defects gradually drops from as high as 65 – 85% in the first two months of pregnancy, to 30 – 35% in the third month, to 10% in the fourth month.

- ▶ Live attenuated vaccine (RA 27/3 strain) as single or combined (MMR)-0.5ml sc.
- The Rubella vaccine should **not** be administered to pregnant women and *pregnancy should be avoided* for three months after vaccination.
- WHO recommends that countries wishing to prevent CRS should immunize adolescent girls and/ or women of childbearing age.
- The most rapid impact would be achieved by *mass campaigns* for women of childbearing age (and men preferably).
- For *increased impact even men* should be vaccinated.

# Mumps

- The name comes from the British word "*to mump*", that is *grimace or grin*.
- This results from the appearance of the patient as a result of parotid gland swelling.
- A viral infection primarily affecting the *salivary glands*.
- In most instances mumps is a mild childhood disease.
- Mumps virus may also affect adults, among whom complications such as meningitis and orchitis are relatively common.
  - Encephalitis and permanent neurological sequelae are rare

- Endemic worldwide.
- ► Currently, in most parts of the world, the *annual incidence of* mumps –100 to 1000 per 100,000 population.
- In areas without childhood vaccination against mumps, epidemics occur every 02-05 years

- Genus rubulavirus of the *paramyxoviridae family*.
- Humans only natural hosts.
- ▶ Peak incidence children 05–09 years .
- In hot climates the disease is endemic throughout the year, whereas in temperate climates incidence peaks in winter and spring.

- The virus is *spread via airborne droplets* from the upper respiratory tract or by direct contact.
- Requires more intimate contact for transmission than measles or chicken pox.
- Rarely, transmission can be fomite borne through articles freshly contaminated with saliva.
- Overcrowding resulting in close contact such as school classrooms, cinema halls, army barracks facilitates transmission.

- Persons with mumps are infective from about 2 days before the onset of swelling of the salivary glands up to 9 days after the onset of swelling.
- ▶ Incubation period-16-18 days(range of 2 to 4 weeks).

- Live attenuated mumps virus vaccines based on several different strains.
  - The common ones are the Jeryl Lynn strains, RIT 4385 strains, Leningrad - 3 strains, L - Zagreb strains, Urabe strains & the Rubini strains.
- In India, the MMR vaccine is manufactured by the Serum Institute of India.
  - The strains used are L Zagreb for mumps, Edmonston Zagreb for measles and Plotkins RA 27/3 for rubella.
- The mumps vaccine should not be administered to pregnant women and pregnancy should be avoided for three months after vaccination.

# Measles

- 'Rubeola' means red spots.
- Measles, an acute viral exanthematous fever is a leading cause of childhood deaths in developing countries.
- Measles is one of the most contagious diseases known.
- ▶ Almost all non immune children contract this respiratory disease if exposed to the virus.
- It is a human disease not known to occur in animals.

- ▶865-925 AD: Earliest description given by Arab
- ▶ 1846: **Panum** did classical study on measles
- ▶ 1954: Enders et al isolated measles virus.
- ▶ 1958: Measles vaccine first clinical trial.
- ▶ 1963: Live measles vaccine was licensed for use.

- It has been responsible for *millions of deaths* since its emergence over five thousand years ago.
- Measles is reported from all countries without exception.
- Prior to the introduction of a safe and effective vaccine measles epidemics would occur every two to five years resulting in an estimated five to eight million deaths every year.
- The introduction and widespread use of the vaccine has brought about *a marked decline in measles occurrence and mortality*.

- ▶ Even though routine immunization coverage in the Region increased from 61% in 2000 to 90% in 2014, the Region as a whole achieved a modest 64% reduction in the estimated measles deaths during that period.
- Case fatality rates in these countries are normally in the range 1 to 5% but may reach as high as 10 to 30% in populations with high levels of malnutrition and poor access to health care

- ▶ Genus Morbillivirus –family paramyxoviridae.
- ▶ Humans are the *only natural hosts* for the virus.
- Susceptibility to infection is universal in those not exposed irrespective of age.
- Most infections occur in the age group six months to three years in developing countries.
- Immunity lasts lifelong after natural infection.
- Nutritional status has an important bearing on the severity of disease. Measles is very severe in malnourished with higher mortality.

- In India, the *peak incidence of measles* is in winter and early spring.
- The mode of transmission is person to person by direct contact.
- Transmission is through droplets or airborne spread of secretions from the respiratory tract of measles cases.
- Articles freshly soiled by discharges are also infective.
- Overcrowding favours transmission.
- Secondary attack rates close to 90%.

- Period of communicability is from one to two days before prodrome to four days after appearance of rash.
- Incubation period ranges from 8 to 13 days from exposure to fever and is usually 14 days from exposure to appearance of rash.

- The commonest complications of measles result from involvement of the *respiratory tract or the Central Nervous System (CNS)*.
- The most serious complications include *blindness*, *encephalitis*, *severe diarrhoea possibly leading to dehydration*, *ear infections including otitis media*, *and severe respiratory infections such as pneumonia*, which is the most common cause of death associated with measles.

- ▶ Measles vaccine-MR Compaigns-2012-2020
- Passive immunization with Human Immunoglobulin (should be administered within 6 days of exposure).
- Isolation of case.
- Measles Elimination Strategy:
  - >Catch-up
  - ≻Keep-up
  - >Follow-up
- Surveillance