



CLINICIAN UPDATE, September 15, 2006

THE WEST NILE FILE



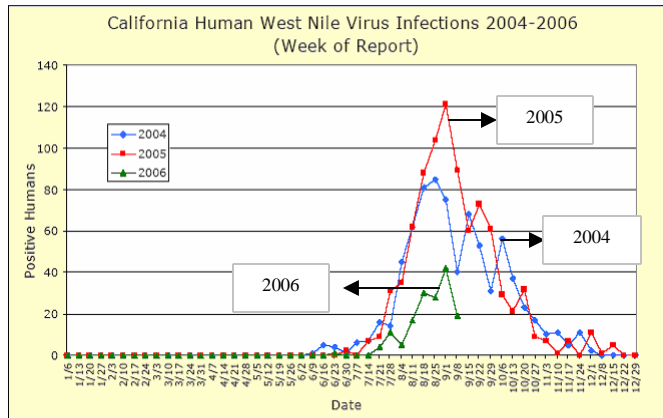
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Another human West Nile Virus (WNV) case has been reported in Orange County. Birds and mosquitoes continue to test positive for WNV throughout the county. Consider WNV infection in your patients with aseptic meningitis, encephalitis, acute flaccid paralysis, or prolonged fever (> 7 days) and submit serology for WNV testing.

• Clinical Features of WNV Infection

- **West Nile Fever** is characterized by symptoms such as fever, fatigue, myalgias, headache, nausea, vomiting, lymphadenopathy, and rash on the trunk of the body.
- **West Nile Neuroinvasive Disease** (WN meningitis, WN encephalitis, or acute flaccid paralysis) includes symptoms such as headache, high fever, and neck stiffness. Additional symptoms may consist of changes in mental status, seizures, or coma. Asymmetric limb weakness or paralysis may occur alone or along with other symptoms.
- Weakness may be a prominent finding in patients with WNV infection, including West Nile Fever. Evaluate and document motor strength and reflexes in all patients with possible WNV infection and monitor hospitalized WNV patients for respiratory weakness and need for respiratory support.
- More information and guidance for clinicians can be found at:
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/clinicians/pdf/wnv-clinicaldescription.pdf>.

- **Prevention:** Simple strategies can significantly reduce one's risk of contracting WNV. Educational brochures and fact sheets can be found at http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/WNV_onlineCD.html & http://westnile.ca.gov/edu_materials.htm.



2006 WNV – Orange County, California, & U.S.

- **Orange County** has reported two WNND cases, one WNF case, and one asymptomatic blood donor.
- 52/58 **California** counties have reported WNV activity. 197 human cases have been reported from 32 counties. There have been two WNV-related fatalities reported in California.
- In the **United States** 1634 human cases and 52 deaths have been reported to the CDC as of September 12th. Washington State has confirmed its first ever locally acquired human WNV case this week.

Testing for West Nile Virus:

- **Preferred test: serum IgM and IgG for WNV.**
- WNV IgM may be negative early in the course of the disease and repeat serology may be indicated if initial testing was done in the first 10 days after onset of symptoms.
- A positive WNV IgG alone (in the absence of IgM) may represent prior infection with WNV or other cross-reacting flaviviruses, but does NOT rule out acute or recent infection with WNV if done in the 10 days after onset.
- Enterovirus is a more common cause of aseptic meningitis especially in children and CSF enterovirus PCR is available in some reference labs.

If you have any comments about the flyer, contact Sandra Nutter, MPH or Pamela Roa Hipp, MPH at (714) 834-8180. To receive this newsletter by email, please contact us at epi@ochca.com.

Recommended Resources

Orange County Health Care Agency:
www.ochca.com/epi/wnv

Orange County Vector Control District:
www.ocvcd.org or Ph: 714-971-2421
To report dead birds: X117

California Department of Health Services:
www.westnile.ca.gov

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile