Dengue Prevention and Vector Control in Singapore


Address for correspondence: Eng-Eong Ooi, Defence Medical and Environmental Research Institute, DSO National Laboratories, 27 Medical Dr, 09-01 Singapore; email: oengeong@dso.org.sg

Dengue

An acute, self-limited disease characterized by fever, headache, myalgia, and rash caused by any of 4 related but distinct viruses of the genus Flavivirus and spread by Aedes mosquitoes. Dengue (a Spanish homonym for the Swahili ki denga pepo, which describes a sudden, cramplike seizure caused by an evil spirit) is believed to have been first recorded in a Chinese medical encyclopedia from the Chin Dynasty (265–420 AD). The Chinese called dengue “water poison” and knew that it was somehow associated with flying insects.