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Yellow Fever in a Worker Returning to China from Angola, March 2016

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To the Editor: Yellow fever is disease caused by a flavivirus that is transmitted to humans and nonhuman primates through the bites of infected mosquitoes. In 2013, an estimated 130,000 persons in Africa experienced fever with jaundice or hemorrhage associated with yellow fever; ≈78,000 of these infections were fatal (1).

Recently, an outbreak of yellow fever was reported in Angola (2). This serious viral disease affects persons living in and visiting tropical regions of Africa and Central and South America (3). No case of yellow fever had been confirmed in China until this year (3). With the increased population movement between Africa and China, the risk for yellow fever in China is increasing.

In March 2016, a 34-year-old man who had recently returned to China from Angola sought medical treatment at the Shanghai Public Health Clinical Center in Shanghai, China. He reported a 4-day history of malaise, myalgia, weakness, nausea, vomiting, and fever reaching 38.8°C. The patient had been treated with several antimicrobial drugs when he was in Angola, but symptoms did not resolve. He had no history of immunodeficiency or immunosuppressive drug use. No endocrine, metabolic, or autoimmune abnormalities were found.

Nine years earlier, the patient had undergone cardiac valve replacement for rheumatoid heart disease and was currently receiving warfarin therapy. Because his treating physicians were concerned about the potential effect of yellow fever vaccine on the patient's international normalized ratio (ratio of reference to measured prothrombin times), the patient traveled to Africa for work without receiving vaccination for yellow fever.

Physical examination revealed a temperature of 37°C. Neither rash nor jaundice were evident. Blood examination revealed a low leukocyte count (1.66×10^9 cells/L [reference range $3.50\text{--}9.50 \times 10^9$ cells/L]), a low absolute lymphocyte count (0.92×10^9 cells/L [$1.1\text{--}3.2 \times 10^9$ cells/L]), a normal erythrocyte count (4.60×10^{12} cells/L [$4.30\text{--}5.80 \times 10^{12}$ cells/L]), and a low platelet count (43×10^9 platelets/L [$125\text{--}350 \times 10^9$ platelets/L]). The patient had low levels of circulating CD3+ cells (540/mL [$690\text{--}2,540$ /mL]) and CD8+ cells (97/mL [$190\text{--}1,140$ /mL]) and normal levels of CD4+ T-cells.

C-reactive protein level was 4.31 mg/L (reference range 0–3.0 mg/L), lactate dehydrogenase was 1,086 U/L (109–245 U/L), alanine aminotransferase was 882 U/L (7–40 U/L), total bilirubin was 13.5 μmol/L (0–17 μmol/L), and direct bilirubin was 7.4 μmol/L (0–5.4 μmol/L). The patient had normal levels of thyroid-stimulating hormone, and no DNA, nuclear, or thyroglobulin antibodies were detected.

Test results for HIV, malaria, and dengue virus infection were negative. Serum and urine samples were positive for yellow fever virus and negative for dengue and

Zika viruses by PCR. These results were confirmed by the Shanghai Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the China Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Yellow fever virus RNA remained detectable 9 days after symptom onset in serum and for an additional 3 days in urine and feces.

A person from China traveling to a yellow fever–endemic area would usually receive vaccination against yellow fever (4). Persons such as our patient, who cannot or should not receive vaccination for yellow fever, should be monitored closely. As of April 2, 2016, a total of 9 imported cases of yellow fever were reported in China: 4 cases in Fujian Province, 4 cases in Beijing, and 1 case in Shanghai. All 9 cases occurred in travelers returning to China from Angola; no local cases have been reported.

The mosquito density is low in Shanghai, and the temperature typically is low in March, suggesting that the imported case we describe will probably not result in mosquito-borne transmission. However, in the upcoming summer, the risk for onward transmission of travel-associated yellow fever in China will warrant increased vigilance. To help prevent the importation and potential spread of yellow fever in China, the Chinese government now requests proof of vaccination for yellow fever from persons traveling to China from Angola.

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Clinical Manifestations of Zika Virus Infection, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 2015

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To the Editor: Zika virus infection, which has been associated with microcephaly and other neurologic disorders, has reached the level of public health emergency of international concern (1). Zika virus (family *Flaviviridae*, genus *Flavivirus*) is transmitted by mosquitos of the genus *Aedes* (2). The virus was first isolated from a serum specimen from a rhesus monkey in the Zika Forest of Uganda in 1947 (3). After 2007, a rapid geographic expansion of the virus was observed, including outbreaks in the Pacific region (4) and, more recently, in South America. Brazil reported the first autochthonous case of Zika virus disease in April 2015 (5), and subsequently, increasing numbers of cases have been reported, especially in northeastern Brazil (6).

Studies on the natural history of Zika virus infection are scarce. Previous research defined Zika virus infection as a dengue-like illness, typically characterized by fever, maculopapular rash, arthralgia, and conjunctivitis (4). Although some patients have all of these symptoms during early onset, fever is not an early symptom for all. Here we describe the frequency of signs and symptoms from a sample of clinic patients in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, who were later confirmed to have Zika virus disease by using real-time reverse transcription PCR (rRT-PCR).

We retrospectively collected clinical data on a convenience sample of 57 patients found to be Zika virus–positive by rRT-PCR who had medical attention at the 24-hour acute care clinic of Manguinhos in Rio de Janeiro during April 28–June 8, 2015. Data were collected from electronic medical records and surveillance reports. Data were anonymized and included age, sex, and signs and symptoms documented on the first clinic visit of patients who reported acute rash, dengue-like illness, or both. Fever