

Post dengue hair loss: low prevalence in Thai cases

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Dear Editor,

Dengue is a very common tropical infection in tropical Asia. The disease can cause acute febrile illness with hemorrhagic complications¹. The post dengue problem is also observable, and hair loss is an important disorder. In a report from Norway, 45% of the dengue patients had hair loss after infection². In another report from Taiwan³, the same percentage, 45%, of patients were noted with post dengue hair loss. Here, the authors attempted to summarize the magnitude of the problem among Thai patients. Data on 1-month post dengue follow-up on 143 dengue patients in our medical center were analyzed, and it was found that the post dengue hair loss was observed in only 7 cases giving the rate equal to 4.9%. For a longer follow-up, in 3 months, 6 months, 12 months and 15 months, there is no other additional case presented with the problem of post dengue hair loss. Interestingly, the observed rate in Thailand where the disease is highly endemic is significant lower than those reported in patients in non-endemic areas. The exact underlying factors contributing to the difference are unknown, and this is an interesting issue for further study. The heterogeneity of dengue epidemiology is also an important consideration⁴. To ensure these results, newer studies conducted in different regions of the world should be evaluated.

Conflict of interest: None declared.

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