

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus infections in Iran from 2013-2014

Jila Yavarian, Azadeh Shadab, Tat Mokhtari Azad

Virology Department, School of Public Health, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Porsina st, Tehran, Iran, Poursi code: 14155-6446

Human infection with a newly identified coronavirus named Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) was reported in Saudi Arabia in 2012. Up to 20 June 2015, 1334 confirmed cases of MERS-CoV have been reported to the WHO. We report the virological and epidemiological data of MERS-CoV infections in Iran from 2013-2015. From January 2013 until 15 Feb 2015, more than 2000 samples were tested by Real time RT-PCR assay for detection of MERS-CoV. During this period six patients were positive for MERS-CoV in 2014 and 2015. The first patient was hospitalized on 11 May 2014 and died 18 days later. The second patient was her sister which survived without complication. Two other patients with complete recovery were health care workers which had contact with the first case. The fifth patient with history of chronic respiratory disease passed away on 5 July. The sixth patient was detected in 28 March 2015 and discharged from hospital on 27 April. There was no history of travel or contact with animals and consumption of raw camel products in the 14 days prior to becoming ill in these patients. All close contacts of the mentioned cases, including family members, other patients in the hospital were negative for MERS-CoV infection in contact investigation. For better understanding about the route of transmission, the ability of causing illness among close contacts, epidemiologic features, prevalence in the community, pathogenesis and risk factors, active contact tracing, enhanced surveillance and searches for the animal host and route of transmission is recommended.

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