

Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

Filariasis

November 2023

Introduction

Filariasis is a tropical disease spread through filarial worms. It is usually caused by three types of parasitic worms namely: *Wuchereria bancrofti*, *Brugia malayi*, and *Brugia timori*. These worms transmit the disease to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. Filariasis affects people living in the tropics and subtropics, particularly in Asia and Africa. The disease can cause a variety of clinical manifestations, including lymphedema of the limbs, genital disease, and recurrent acute attacks, which are extremely painful and immensely debilitating. Early detection and prompt treatment of these diseases are crucial.

Temporal Trend



Highlights

- Filariasis cases in Chinese mainland are exceptionally rare from the data spanning January 2010 to November 2023, with only three reported cases and no associated deaths.
- The sporadic cases occurred in August of 2011, November of 2014, and August of 2021, indicating no clear seasonal pattern.
- The absence of fatalities suggests either a low virulence of the infection or highly effective treatment and management of the cases that did occur.
- The data reflects a likely successful control and elimination effort for filariasis in the region, consistent with the World Health Organization's Global Programme to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis.

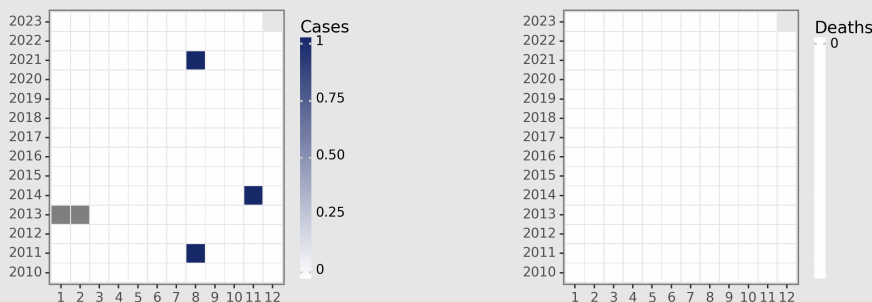
Cases Analysis

From January 2010 to November 2023, the data indicates that the Chinese mainland reported a total of three cases of Filariasis with no monthly cases recorded other than a single case each in August 2011, November 2014, and August 2021. The consistently low number of cases over this extended period suggests successful control and possible near-elimination of Filariasis in the region, assuming robust surveillance and reporting mechanisms.

Deaths Analysis

The reported data for the same time frame indicates zero deaths due to Filariasis across the Chinese mainland. This could be attributed to either the absence of infection or effective clinical management of the few cases that arose. Given the chronic nature of Filariasis and potential for long-term morbidity, the lack of mortality is a positive indicator of the efficacy of public health measures and treatment protocols in place.

Distribution



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