Chinese Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance Report

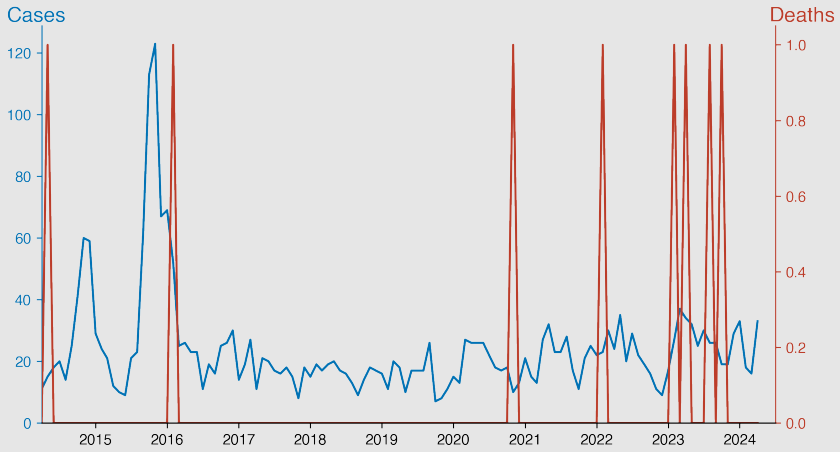
Kala azar

April 2024

Introduction

Kala azar, also known as visceral leishmaniasis, is a parasitic disease transmitted through the bite of infected female sandflies. Caused by the Leishmania parasite, the disease primarily attacks the internal organs, such as the liver, spleen, and bone marrow. Its symptoms include fever, weight loss, anemia, and an enlarged spleen or liver. Without prompt and effective treatment, Kala azar is typically fatal. Predominantly found in tropical and subtropical regions, the World Health Organization has identified it as a neglected tropical disease.

Temporal Trend



Highlights

- Kala azar's incidence in mainland China shows fluctuating trends, rising during certain months and subsiding during others. There's no consistent pattern of transmission.
- The fatal cases of Kala azar is minimal compared to the incidence. Only 8 deaths have been recorded from 2014 to 2024, indicating effective case management and treatment protocol.
- The disease burden increased significantly in October and November 2015 but then normalized again and has been steady in recent years.
- As of April 2024, the number of Kala azar cases reported is 33 and no deaths have been recorded, showing a similar trend to previous years.

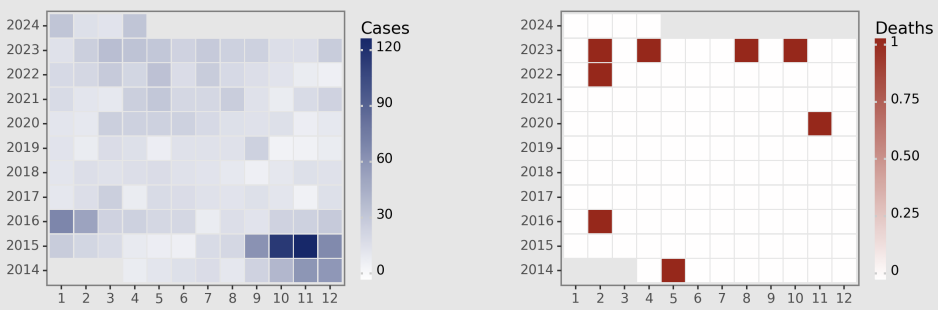
Cases Analysis

Looking at the reported data of Kala azar in the mainland of China from 2014 to 2024, there is an observable fluctuation in reported cases. The disease exhibits an annual cyclical trend with cases typically peaking in the autumn months - October and November - followed by a gradual decline during the winter and spring, before slightly picking up in the late summer months. The sharpest surge of Kala azar occurred in October and November during 2015 with a steep increase in reported instances. However, the reported cases seem to have plateaued since, with no significant upward trends.

Deaths Analysis

Overall, Kala azar exhibited a very low fatality rate in this reported span, with only seven deaths recorded across the entire period. While most months reported no Kala azar-associated deaths, there were isolated instances of single fatalities in May 2014, February 2016, November 2020, February 2022, April 2023, August 2023, and October 2023. This scattered fatality data suggests an effective clinical management protocol for the disease, consisting of early detection and prompt treatment. It's worth noting that a change in the available treatment approaches or overall disease management efforts could significantly shift this trend.

Distribution



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