

Measles outbreak in AL-kadhimiya, Iraq, 2008-2009 and its common complications

Abdul Karem Jasem Albahadle *FICPS*, Areege Abdul abass *CABP*.

Abstract

Background: Worldwide efforts for measles elimination are made possible due to the availability of highly effective measles vaccine. In spite of that, there is high percentage of unvaccinated children in our country-making outbreak of measles easy and highly occurred.

Objective: To identify the outbreak of measles in AL-Kadhimiya-Baghdad and its common complications with fatality causes and rate.

Patients and methods: Cross-sectional study was conducted during the period between 20 th December 2008 to 30 th April 2009 on 494 patients with measles attending AL-kadhimiya Teaching Hospital ,AL-kadhimiya Hospital for pediatrics and two Primary Health Center (Al shaheed Basher Al jasaery Primary health center in AL-shaula city and Al Noor Primary health center in AL-Jawaden city)and they were divided into four group according to their age which were (below 1year),(1-4yr),(5-9yr)and above 10 years ,regarding immunization status was assessed by examining the immunization card or parental enquiry on this regard.

Result: Male are nearly equal to female (49.80 %)and (50.20 %) respectively. Of 494 reported

cases 97 (19.64 %) were under one year of age and 287(58.97 %)were 1-4 years old and this mean that more than two-third 384 (78.61 %) of patient were under 4 years ,small group (10.53 %) were vaccinated against measles .Complications were Pneumonia, Diarrhea and Vomiting, Croup and Encephalitis ,in (83.85 %) ,(11.46 %) , (2.60 %) , (2.09 %) respectively. Mortality rate was (2.43%) which occurred most commonly in age group below 5 years (91.7 %) and slightly more in male (58.4 %) than female (41.6 %) causes of deaths were pneumonia (83.4 %) and encephalitis (16.6 %).

Conclusion: This outbreak of measles demonstrates the increased susceptibility of unvaccinated children who are below 5 years old .Pneumonia, Diarrhea and Vomiting, Croup and encephalitis are complications of measles and higher mortality rate occur in male sex and younger age group, (below 5 years old).

Key words: measles, vaccine, outbreak, complications, children.

IRAQI J MED SCI, 2009; VOL.7 (3):46-51

Introduction

Measles is a communicable viral illness ⁽¹⁾. Caused by a virus, **paramyxovirus** of the genus **Morbillivirus**. Symptoms include **fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes** and a generalized, **maculopapular, erythematous** rash. Measles is spread through respiration (contact with **fluids** from an **infected** person's nose and mouth, either directly or through **aerosol** transmission), and is highly contagious—90% of people without

Its incidence in childhood varies from 58 %in epidemic to 10-15 %in **immunity** sharing a house with an infected person ⁽²⁾.endemic form ⁽³⁾.Globally about 40 million cases of measles occur every year out of which 777000 death occur due to measles ⁽⁴⁾.

Complications with measles are relatively common, ranging from relatively mild and less serious diarrhea, to pneumonia and encephalitis (sub acute sclerosing panencephalitis), corneal ulceration leading to corneal scarring ⁽⁵⁾. The fatality rate from measles for otherwise healthy people in developed countries is 3 deaths per thousand cases. In underdeveloped nations with high rates of malnutrition and poor healthcare,

Dept. Pediatric, College of Medicine, Al-Nahrain University .

Address Correspondence to: Dr. Abdul Karem Jasem .Albahadle,

E-mail: k.albahadle@yahoo.com

Received:20th May 2009, Accepted: 1st July 2009.