



Notifiable and other relevant infectious diseases in refugees and asylum seekers in a major reception center in Munich, Germany

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Introduction

According to UNHCR's Global Trends Report there have been 65.6 million forcibly displaced persons worldwide in 2016. So far, only few European studies have examined the health status of refugees and asylum seekers (RAs). This study wants to identify possible risk groups for notifiable and other relevant infectious diseases in RAs.

Methods

This monocentric retrolective cross-sectional study analyzed the data of 15,137 RAs who were treated in a health care unit of a major reception center located in Munich from November 2014 to October 2016. Out of these, 811 RAs suffering from a notifiable infectious disease according to section 6 and 7 of the German Infection Protection Act (NIDs) or any other infectious disease relevant in communal accommodation (RIDs) were identified and included in the study.

Results

The study population consisted largely of young male adults. Patients from sub-Saharan Africa were overrepresented and had a significantly elevated risk for hepatitis B and tuberculosis. Incidences for tuberculosis were increased considerably whereas prevalences for hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV were mostly below those of the countries of origin. An increased prevalence for HIV was noted in female Nigerian RAs.

Conclusions

Gender, age and nationality were risk factors for NIDs/RIDs. Improving hygienic measures and early vaccination could reduce the spread of parasitic and vaccine-preventable diseases, especially concerning the crowded conditions in reception centers and low immunization rates in RAs.