

Abstract

A remarkable increase in the number of cases of meningococcal disease (43 cases, 0.19/100,000) was noted in 2001 in Taiwan. Among the 43 preserved isolates of *Neisseria meningitidis* from 43 patients (41 in 2001 and one each in 1998 and 2000, respectively), three (7.0%) were resistant to penicillin (MICs \geq 0.12 μ g/mL). Wide dissemination of a limited number of domestic clones of *N. meningitidis*, particularly serogroups W135, B, and Y contributed to the 2001 outbreak. The two clones of serogroup W135 involved in this outbreak were genetically different from the 2000 or 2001 Hajj-related W135 clone.

Keywords : *Neisseria meningitidis* ; clinical features ; areported diseasesince