

## Surveillance of severe syndromic cases in Taiwan

### Abstract:

To monitor the rare events of severe cases occurred in the community that caused by unknown infectious pathogen, and to prevent its further transmission by early implementation of effective control measures, syndromic surveillance system was established in Taiwan since 1998. Syndrome reporting refers to communicable diseases that lead to serious symptoms. Four syndromes, including Acute Haemorrhagic Fever Syndrome (AHFS), Acute Respiratory Syndrome (ARS), Acute Neurological Syndrome (ANS) and Acute Jaundice Syndrome (AJS) were open for suspected cases report since 1998. Acute Diarrhoea Syndrome (ADS) was available only during 2001/1/1 to 2006/9/10. In addition, the definition for serious symptoms was changed since 2006, which meant to present one of the following manifestations: circulatory failure, crucial organ failure, consciousness disturbance or death.

Up to 2006/11/18, 453 cases were reported to syndromic surveillance system in 2006. Among these case, 192 of them were ARS (42.4%), followed by 134 cases of ANS (29.6%), 111 cases of AJS (24.5%), 9 cases of AHFS (2.0%) and 7 cases of ADS (1.5%). Ten persons were reported for more than one syndrome. In consideration of residential areas, Taipei region accounted for the most case (179 cases), followed by northern region (89 cases), Kaoping region (58 cases), central region (49 cases), eastern region (40cases) and southern region (38 cases). Sex ratio was 1.8:1 (M:F) for reported cases and, on average, 20.5% (93/453) of them were dead. Overall, 19.7% of the cases were laboratory confirmed recent infection. The positive rates of laboratory diagnosis are 11.1% (1/9), 32.3% (62/192), 14.2% (19/134), 6.3% (7/111) and 0% (0/7) for AHFS, ARS, ANS, AJS and ADS, respectively. No cases infected with the same pathogen had occurred in the same residential area within one week, which suggested no clustering outbreak of syndromic sever cases in Taiwan in 2006.

Keyword : Emerging infectious diseases 、 surveillance of syndromic severe cases 、 clustering outbreak