

Malaria outbreak in the gold-mining area in the Jequitinhonha River Valley, Minas Gerais State

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Between December 2016 and March 2017, 22 autochthonous cases of malaria were recorded in a gold-mining area located in the Jequitinhonha River Valley, Minas Gerais State. It is an area where the extraction of gold and diamond is intense, with a great flow of people coming from different regions of Brazil, living in subhuman conditions of housing and with restricted access to information and health services. **Objective.** To know the epidemiological profile of malaria in this area in order to subsidize effective control measures. **Material and methods.** The study was carried out through the analysis of the records of notification of patients diagnosed with malaria in the mentioned period, obtained from the Municipal Health Secretariats of Diamantina and Couto de Magalhães de Minas, municipalities within the scope of the gold-mining. The following characteristics were observed: sex, age group, activity, symptomatology, diagnosis, treatment follow-up, among others. **Results.** Of the 22 reported cases, 10 were from the municipality of Diamantina and 12 from Couto de Magalhães de Minas. Of the total, only 2 (9%) were in women, predominating, therefore, in men (20 cases - 91%). Cases were recorded in people aged 15-60 years, predominantly in the 20-29 age group (32%) and 40-49 years (27%). Regarding the activity performed, the garimpeiros constituted the class where the number of cases was greater (82%), but the disease was also registered in students, housewives and teachers. Fever, chills, malaise and body aches were the symptoms most often reported by patients. The result of the thick blood smear technique revealed that *Plasmodium vivax* is the circulating species in this area. The therapeutic regimen was performed with chloroquine, although 2 cases had relapsed. **Conclusions.** This study verified that the disease was considered autochthonous in this area and since it is a region with evidence of great susceptibility and vulnerability to malaria transmission, it is fundamental to implement continuous epidemiological surveillance actions, in order to make the diagnosis viable and early treatment for patients, as well as entomological monitoring, with the consequent spraying in the possible and most vulnerable areas.