Warning issued in Frankfurt (Germany) as baggage handlers contract Malaria

https://www.medindia.net/news/two-die-in-rare-frankfurt-airport-malaria-outbreak-224882-1.htm

The initial report mentioned here says that four workers were infected but later ones confirm six cases with two deaths from malaria. So, this report should be a reminder to us all that mosquitoes really are a significant and dangerous problem and not just a nuisance. The theory is that they would have stowed on board (or in someone's baggage perhaps) on a flight from a malaria endemic region and somehow survived the cargo temperatures. Sadly, I have no doubt that the diagnosis of malaria would not have been top of the initial doctors differential diagnostic list!

7yo dies from Rabies in northern Bali (Indonesia)

https://thebalitimes.com/the-island/bali-boy-dies-after-suspected-rabies-symptoms/

Once again we sadly need to report on the risks of rabies throughout the world and the need for our patients to be aware of these potential dangers and what is urgently needed if exposure should occur. The death of a 7yo in Bali certainly reminds us of how important it is to particularly educate our children about these risks during their idyllic holiday away from the British Isles where we live such a sheltered life by comparison to so many. The risk of rabies through any salivary contact (bite, lick, scratch, spitting) from an infected warm blooded animal is not the only issue of concern as in Bali macaque monkeys can also transmit Herpes B viral infections and of course any skin break can become infected by various nasty and toxic bacteria. The enforced change in onward holiday plans can certainly spoil any planned itinerary but of course any of those infections can have even more significant consequences!

CDC (USA) advice relating to Zika risk and travel to Bali during pregnancy

https://mediaindonesia.com/kesehatan/924717/waspada-virus-zika-di-bali-cdc-as-terbitkan-travel-alert-level-2

Since 2015/16 we have all become aware of the potential risks associated with infection of the Zika virus during pregnancy. This mosquito-borne disease had to hit an uninfected virgin region (in this case South America initially) before the devastating effects of this disease became recognised. Now we have many travellers worried sick that their travel plans are placing them (or more correctly their planned, or active, foetal passenger) at potential risk and they are looking for guidance. Typically their first port of call, for trustworthy expert medical advice (!), is the well known Doctor Google! However with a disease where only 20% of those infected develop symptoms (and even then, in the majority of cases, the symptoms are mild) and where the local population have frequently been infected (and so protected against future attacks) the statistics are completely misleading as honestly the only ones at particular risk or the tourists from non-endemic countries such as our own. This advice from CDC USA is not that people should stop travelling to Bali (unless pregnant) but rather to take care to avoid bites and to also consider post travel screening if pregnant or if pregnancy is planned with the near future.

Rabid beaver attacks reported in Maryland (USA)

https://www.cbsnews.com/baltimore/news/beaver-attack-rabies-montgomery-county-maryland/

Just in case you thought it was only dogs which were the problem! In Maryland the authorities have banned swimming and water sports in Cunningham Falls State Park while they seek to get this outbreak under control.

Warfarin meal of field rat meat suspected to the poisoning of three children in Ho Chi Minh (Vietnam)

https://vnexpress.net/3-chi-em-ngo-doc-thuoc-diet-chuot-mot-be-phai-tho-may-5107703.html

An interesting meal choice (field rats) links to what is suspected to be warfarin poisoning of these three children as they experienced abdominal pain, bloating, haematuria and extensive bruising with one developing a haemothorax which required ventilation. Food choices while abroad is definitely an essential element for many to allow a pleasant experience but so many of our patients seem to forget to pack their commonsense and want to experience all the local delicacies which frequently leads to incarceration within the smallest room of the house for a rather unpleasant experience.

Death of 53 healthcare workers from Lassa Fever in Nigeria

https://streamlinefeed.co.ke/news/lassa-fever-outbreak-claims-237-lives-and-infects-53-healthcare-workers

The three major 'haemorrhagic' diseases which we usually consider include Lassa Fever (first recognised in Lassa, close to Jos in Nigeria), Marburg (identified in Germany but in samples from green monkeys in Uganda) and of course Ebola (named after the initial recognised outbreak along the Ebola river in northern Zaire at that time). Of course there are many others which could be added to this unfortunate list but one major characteristic is that at the start of any outbreak many healthcare workers are infected and frequently it is their deaths which help the authorities to recognise the initial disease outbreak. Being sensibly cautious of these risks within all our clinics is something which we continually need to practice as the world becomes smaller in terms of transit times from 'A' to 'B'.

Officially 4294 cases (1960 deaths) in on-going Ebola outbreak in 5 provinces of DR Congo

https://lepotentiel.cd/2026/08/10/ebola-en-rdc-4-294-cas-confirmes-et-1-960-deces-lituri-reste-lepicentre/

By the time this short 'snippet' is released it is obvious that the case numbers above will be grossly higher than what we have available at present. Unfortunately international health authorities are predicting that this outbreak in northeastern DR Congo is the fastest growing one experienced to date. See next snippet link.

Ebola outbreak in DR Congo reaching fastest-growing in history
https://edition.cnn.com/2026/08/11/health/congo-ebola-outbreak-deaths

Update on cases of tick-borne Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever in Yumbe region of Uganda
https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/yumbe-on-high-alert-after-crimean-congo-hemorrhagic-fever-kills-boy-sickens-18-year-old-5549794
Running a close second to mosquitoes, ticks are a major source of vector borne disease and can be found in many regions of the world including our own cooler shores. Fortunately (for us) CCHF is usually considered to be a problem in hotter regions but that picture is becoming less certain – perhaps due to climate change. TBE infected ticks in the UK show how the epidemiology of these vector borne diseases can change over a short period of time and we also have reports from Greece, France and recently, four cases reported in Spain. All this just re-emphasises the need for all practitioners to keep open minds when assessing our patients.

Update on cases of 'flesh-eating bacteria' in Louisiana (USA)
https://www.alaskasnewssource.com/2026/08/07/5-dead-9-hospitalized-flesh-eating-bacteria-outbreak-health-officials-say/
A simple swim in contaminated (not actually polluted) waters around the USA (Florida, South Carolina, Louisiana, Maryland, Alabama and many others) can be linked to this too often fatal disease which can have rapid consequences and frequently resistant to standard antibiotics. Avoiding swimming with cuts and grazes to lessen the risk.

Measles deaths reported in Pennsylvania (USA)
https://www.witf.org/2026/08/25/2-lancaster-county-residents-die-amid-growing-pa-measles-outbreak/
In a country where many are convinced by the vaccine deniers and where vaccine scepticism and misinformation abounds it is hardly surprising that, probably the most infectious disease known to man, has an open goal to cause havoc and despair. These two deaths in Pennsylvania are the first measles related deaths within the State for 35 years.

Leprosy still a significant concern across parts of Indonesia
https://en.antaranews.com/amp/news/425559/indonesia-finds-13297-suspected-leprosy-cases-amid-boosted-screenings
Now, let's ensure we all remember to ensure that Leprosy is at least always considered when dealing with somewhat odd presentations of peripheral neuropathy or a variety of other clinical peculiarities – even if it is only to show that you are able to think somewhat 'outside the box' when dealing with patients or perhaps more specifically when sitting exams!

Outbreak of mosquito-borne West Nile virus in Attica region of Greece
https://greekcitytimes.com/2026/07/23/west-nile-virus-greece-2026-21-cases-confirmed-majority-with-neurological-symptoms/
This is usually a mild and low mortality disease but of course exceptions can always occur and in this report neurological symptoms are front and centre.

Over 5000 cases of Cyclosporiasis recorded in Michigan (USA) in current outbreak
https://abcnews.com/Health/cyclosporiasis-cases-michigan-surpass-2600-health-officials/story?id=134709100
Contaminated lettuce seems to be one of the major vectors of this considerable outbreak.

28 tourists hospitalised with suspected food poisoning in western Turkey
https://tinyurl.com/26a9nbmt
Just how frequently do we hear reports of tourists with horrible gastrointestinal problems following their desire to 'sample the local cuisine'? Casting all care aside (and frequently egged on by their companions) they disregard all the beautifully scripted advice they were given during their pre-travel consultation and then find that their accommodation shrinks down to a 1.5m by 0.7m chamber – and frequently one without paper! Always bring tissues when travelling!

Case of Chagas Disease identified in San Diego region of USA
https://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/first-locally-acquired-case-of-chagas-disease-reported-in-san-diego-county/4045443/
Another one to add into your always active differential diagnostic list. Infection with Chagas disease can be totally asymptomatic and not cause the infected individual any problems. However for others there may be an initial onset of cardiac irregularity (or even more significant heart problems) but perhaps the most serious consequences may arise from the late stage infection of this infection. The parasympathetic nervous system (that is the one which holds all the internal somatic musculature together!) is weakened and this allows the intestine to dilate along with the ureters and other hollow organs. Cardiac aneurysm may also be an issue. Another worrisome concern is that, if the active trypanosomes are in circulation, the disease can be passed on through organ transplantation and also blood donation.

Update on Meningococcal Meningitis situation in Ho Chi Minh (Vietnam)
https://baomoi.com/can-benh-co-the-khong-qua-khoi-trong-24-gio-ai-de-mac-c55894833.epi
We have being following the multitude reports of Meningococcal Meningitis from Vietnam and this seems to be a continuing problem. The risk for our travellers should be small but that does depend on a number of factors including their planned form of transport they will use or festivals and sporting activities, as any tight crowded experiences which they encounter while within the areas where this air-borne disease is being reported increase their personal risk.

Monkey deaths in Minas Gerais region of Brazil triggers a Yellow Fever warning for the population and travellers
https://gazetanm.com.br/ses-mg-reforca-vigilancia-contra-febre-amarela-apos-confirmacao-de-mortes-de-macacos/
In endemic regions the death of monkeys worries health authorities as this raises the possibility of Yellow Fever and the risk of an epidemic starting. The modern 'canary in the mine' approach.