
Tropical medicine beyond the tropic

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Tropical medicine is a specific branch of medicine dealing with tropical disorders, both infectious and non infectious ones. The present focus of tropical medicine is specific disorders appearing in the tropical region. Considering the world map, there are many countries lying in the tropics. Of interest, these countries are usually under-developed and developing countries. The problems of poverty with limited resources are common. In the present day, tropical medicine becomes widely recognized. Many emerging conditions bring attention of the medical scientists around the world to tropical medicine. Tropical medicine becomes useful for the medical society in not only the tropics but also the non-tropics. Important challenges will be hereby discussed.

1. Emerging infectious diseases

Several emerging infectious diseases are reported within this decade. Several new diseases have their origins and epidemics in the tropics. For example, the present pandemic swine flu, new atypical H1N1 influenza virus infection, attacks many tropical countries. Also, the swine flu is presently the problem of the non-tropical countries (1).

2. Rapid urbanization and pollution

Rapid urbanization due to the globalization can be seen expect. This changes the lifestyle of several people in the tropics. New diseases come to the tropical countries. New problems due to pollution emerge. Exchanging of the experience between the scientists in the developed world to those in the developing world is needed (2).

3. Global warming

Global warming is the hot issue. Global warming results in several unwanted phenomena. It affects both physical and mental status of the world population. Effect of global warming on health is described. Many diseases previously limited and known as tropical diseases presently emerge in the non-tropical region (3).

4. Traveling and transportation of disease

Due to good transportation system, a disease in a tropical setting can be easily carried to the new setting in a non-tropical setting. This can bring the fact there is no barrier in the present world.

It can be seen that tropical medicine is presently not specific for tropical medical personnel but for all in this world (4).

References

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