

## IISER Pune 2 x MIT\_MAHE

### Integrated Human Practices

**MIT\_MAHE interviewed a doctor from the Infectious Disease Department in a government medical college in Kerala, India. We were fortunate enough to connect with the doctor and conduct a short interview with them based on some essential questions.**

How many patients have suffered from dengue?

Ans: Provided rough data of about 50 to 70 patients suffering from dengue reported per day, especially after the rainy season.

Do you face any trouble while diagnosing the disease?

Ans: Usually, the problem they face is based on the ethics involved and the clustering of multiple cases. Laboratory findings of dengue infection include thrombocytopenia with low platelet count. Clinical findings such as nausea, vomiting, fatigue, aches, and pains are the general, indicative factors observed in patients. However, severe thrombocytopenia can be seen in dengue and dengue hemorrhagic fever.

Is there any chronological order of organ monitoring?

Ans: Not specifically; however, low platelet count is a common manifestation observed. Intracranial bleeding/haemorrhage (brain bleeding) can also cause brain damage and be life-threatening, which may affect the liver. Some symptoms include headache, nausea and vomiting, weakness, numbness, or paralysis of the face, arm, or leg.

Lower than 50,000 platelet count - admitted in ICU

Lower than 20,000 platelet count - platelet transfusion is carried out

What is the best therapeutic?

Ans: It is advised to stay hydrated and take a balanced diet with healthy fruits and vegetables.

Do you find any errors with the current treatment?

Ans: Nothing really, managing with the existing system.

In your experience, what has been the most challenging case?

Ans: I experienced a case in the hospital where a patient had a brain haemorrhage with a platelet count much lower than 10,000 and had to be sent to the ICU for further treatment.

Can human error and misdiagnosis lead to severe dengue?

Ans: One thing we could do to avoid such a case would be to stay well-hydrated.

Are there enough beds?

Ans: Currently, there are not enough beds or space to meet the requirement, and it needs to cater to the high income of patients during the surge in dengue cases.

How has COVID-19 affected the number of Dengue cases?

Ans: Due to limited outdoor activities, the number of dengue cases decreased to a certain extent after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Has it affected the diagnosis of either disease and the treatment in any way?

Ans: None.

Is there any difference between the private and government hospitals regarding the severity of the patients?

Ans: Many patients prefer to get treatment from private hospitals because of the adequate facilities and treatment options. However, government hospitals do not have enough space and number of beds to accommodate that many patients. In the case of severe cases, the patients will be sent to private hospitals for further treatment.

Have workshops or awareness programs for tropically neglected diseases like dengue?

Ans: The community medical department holds an account to educate patients and the general public on the prevalence and prevention of dengue.

How are medical students trained to identify these symptoms?

Ans: Medical students are trained to identify the symptoms from the training they receive during their Undergraduate classes, including case study discussions.

Are there any areas near the campus that are in the high-risk zone?

Ans: The high-risk zone where there is a potential risk of the spread of dengue includes waste disposal areas and common mosquito breeding sites in stagnant water.

What are the steps taken by the institute to prevent mosquito breeding?

Ans: Not anything specific. However, the government has taken a few steps to prevent mosquito breeding.

Is the government doing enough to prevent this disease?

Ans: The government is taking a few initiatives to prevent the disease, but however their outreach could be done better on a larger scale to reach a wider audience.

**MIT\_MAHE also interviewed Dr. Veeresh Kumar, MBBS MD, Arun Clinic, Guntakal, Anantapur, located in Andhra Pradesh, India.**

How many patients have suffered from dengue?

Ans: Dr. Veeresh mentioned that, on average, about 20 cases are suffering from dengue reported per day, especially during the rainy season from September to October.

Do you face any trouble while diagnosing the disease?

Ans: Usually, they face the trouble of dengue infection with the high rise in cases, the rapid dengue kit is utilised for the same.

Is there any chronological order of organ monitoring?

Ans: It leads to poor functioning of the liver and lungs but low platelet count is also a common manifestation observed.

Common symptoms include headache, nausea, fatigue, vomiting, and weakness.

In your opinion, what is the best therapeutic?

Ans: He mentioned that it is advised to stay hydrated at all times and consume a balanced diet of food to be more healthy, making it easier to combat the disease on physical terms.

Do you find any errors with the current treatment?

Ans: Did not mention any.

In your experience, what has been the most challenging case?

Ans: There hasn't been any severe case encountered so far, but in any such claim, they'll be sent to OPD for further treatment.

Can human error and misdiagnosis lead to severe dengue?

Ans: Yes, it can. In worst-case scenarios, there may be chances of severe joint pains, red rashes on the skin and dengue fever.

Are there enough beds?

Ans: Did not mention any.

How has COVID affected the number of Dengue cases?

Ans: Did not mention any.

Has it affected the diagnosis of either disease and the treatment in any way?

Ans: Not linked as such with COVID-19 and dengue but dangerous if suffering from both simultaneously.

Is there any difference between the private and government hospitals regarding the severity of the patients?

Ans: Government hospitals do not have enough space, with limited beds to accommodate that many patients, and no blood banks and ventilators for better treatment.

Have workshops or awareness programs for tropically neglected diseases like dengue?

Ans: The awareness programs were created by the municipality and clinic to remove mosquito fogging to the general public on the prevention of dengue.

How are medical students trained to identify these symptoms?

Ans: Did not mention any.

Are there any areas near the campus that are in the high-risk zone?

Ans: Did not mention any.

What are the steps taken by the institute to prevent mosquito breeding?

Ans: Did not mention any. But it could be prevented by avoiding stagnant water and utilising mosquito nets to prevent mosquito bites.

Is the government doing enough to prevent this disease?

Ans: The government is not taking any initiatives to prevent the disease, but if reported, they would probably put in more effort and work towards helping society be a better space to live in.