



TUBERCULOSIS 2001, PART I

No. 48, 2002

In 2001, there were 511 notifications of patients with tuberculosis (TB). This is the lowest number recorded since 1996 however, it corresponds to the average figure for the previous six years, table 1. The number of cases decreased among both Danes and immigrants, from 199 and 349 cases respectively in 2000, EPI-NEWS 43/01, to 174 and 337 in 2001. The proportion of cases in the two groups has almost remained unchanged for the last five years, 34% vs. 66%. The overall incidence of TB decreased from 10.3 to 9.6 per 10⁵ however, great regional differences exist, table 1. Tuberculosis is still most common in and around the larger cities of Copenhagen and Aarhus. Compared with 2000, the greatest increases in number of cases were in Aarhus County and the Municipality of Copenhagen, while the greatest decreases were in the counties of Roskilde, Funen and Vejle. The M/F ratio was 1.8 among Danes and 0.9 among immigrants. The proportion of women with TB has risen compared to 2000. The median age for Danes was 47 years (range 0-96 years); for immigrants 31 years (range 0-86 years). Overall, 37% of immigrants were from Somalia, 11% from Pakistan, 9% from Greenland, 6% from Afghanistan and 5% from Turkey. The proportion of Somalis with TB decreased by 10 percentage points compared with 2000. This probably reflects a combination of reduced immigration and a declining incidence among Somalis living in Denmark. The increasing proportion of Greenlanders with TB can be explained by an active contact-tracing initiative undertaken in Copenhagen in 2001.

TB localisation

Among Danes, 139 (80%) had pulmonary TB +/- other localisation, while 131 (75%) had only pulmonary TB and 35 (20%) had purely extrapulmonary TB. Glandular and pleural TB were the most common extrapulmonary manifestations, both accounting for 30%. Among immigrants, 206 (61%) had pulmonary TB +/- other localisation, while 182 (54%) had only pulmonary TB and 130 (39%) had purely extrapulmonary TB. For one patient, localisation was unknown. Glandular and pleural TB were the most common extrapulmonary manifestations, accounting for 54% and 10%, respectively. Five patients, all immigrants, had cerebral TB. Seven patients had miliary TB, of whom three were immigrants

Table 1. Notified cases of TB among Danes and immigrants, by county. Number and incidence per 10⁵ in 2001, with average for 1995-2000

County	Danes		Immigrants		Total		Incidence per 10 ⁵ , 2001		
							Danes	Immigrants	Total
	2001	95-00	2001	95-00	2001	95-00			
Cph. Munic.	51	53	99	87	150	140	12.4	113.0	30.1
Frb. Munic.	6	3	4	9	10	12	7.5	36.6	11.0
Copenhagen	26	20	43	45	69	65	4.8	62.7	11.0
Frederiksborg	9	8	18	16	27	24	2.6	65.2	7.3
Roskilde	2	5	1	8	3	13	0.9	6.8	1.3
West Zealand	3	6	9	11	12	17	1.1	59.1	4.0
Storstrøm	11	12	11	11	22	23	4.4	96.5	8.5
Bornholm	0	1	1	1	1	2	0.0	63.4	2.3
Funen	9	12	28	31	37	43	0.0	97.3	7.8
South Jutland	4	5	0	4	4	9	1.7	0.0	1.6
Ribe	4	3	7	7	11	10	1.9	62.9	4.9
Vejle	3	6	13	15	16	21	0.9	69.2	4.6
Ringkøbing	7	9	11	7	18	16	2.7	93.3	6.6
Aarhus	18	15	55	44	73	59	3.0	125.9	11.4
Viborg	4	7	15	7	19	14	1.8	191.8	8.1
North Jutland	15	17	18	25	33	42	3.2	88.2	6.7
Other/unknown	2	0	4	1	6	1	-	-	-
Total	174	182	337	329	511	511	3.5	85.1	9.6

Table 2. Number of notified cases of TB, distributed by new and recurrent cases, localisation and diagnostics, 2001

			Cult. Pos	Cult. Neg/Unknown	Total
New cases	Pulmonary	Micro. Pos	124	3	127
		Micro. Neg	36	33	69
		Unknown	75	49	124
	Extrapulm.		124	31	155
	Total		359	116	475
Recurrent	Pulmonary	Micro. Pos	13	0	13
		Micro. Neg	6	6	12
	Extrapulm.		5	6	11
	Total		24	12	36
Total			383	128	511

and four Danes. The number of new and recurrent cases distributed by localisation, microscopy and culture findings is shown in table 2. Microscopy findings are based on the first received test. A total of 35 patients with pulmonary TB had both negative microscopy and culture. This can partially be explained by timely treatment as well as the fact that a significant number of these patients were children, in whom bacterial load is low. The proportion of culture-positive patients was 75% and this represents a continued decline relative to 2000, EPI-NEWS 44/01.

Transmission

The majority of Danes (89%) were infected in Denmark; this proportion was 14 % among immigrants. According to the information provided, the majority of immigrants (64%) were infected abroad; this proportion was 4% among Danes. For 17% of cases,

country of infection was stated as unknown. For 47 patients (9%), a source of infection in the household within three years was stated. For 58 patients (11%), another source of infection within three years was stated. For 24 (5%), patients' possible source of infection was identified more than three years previously. Thirty-six persons (7%) were notified with recurrence, 14 Danes and 22 immigrants. For 336 (66%) patients, the source of infection was unknown.

Risk factors

Eleven patients, two Danes and nine immigrants, had HIV co-infection and thus AIDS. Alcoholism was reported in 34 patients, 19 Danes and 15 immigrants. For the vast majority of patients (85%), no known risk factors were identified.

Comments to follow in part II.

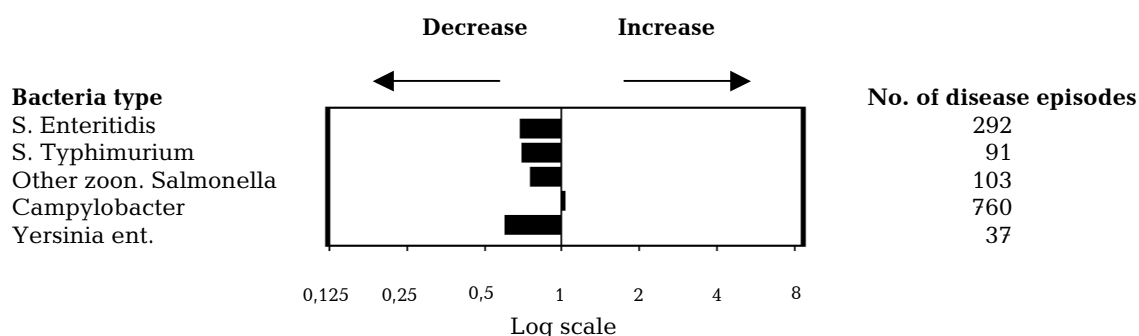
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Patients with positive cultures of pathogenic intestinal bacteria, September - October 2002

County	S. Enteritidis		S. Typhimurium		Other zoon. salmonella		Campylobacter		Yersinia ent.	
	Sep	Oct	Sep	Oct	Sep	Oct	Sep	Oct	Sep	Oct
Copenhagen Munic.	19	13	4	7	10	7	57	36	-	4
Frederiksberg Munic.	-	-	1	-	-	1	5	9	-	-
Copenhagen	13	7	5	-	4	3	61	20	1	1
Frederiksborg	5	11	2	1	3	3	24	27	2	2
Roskilde	10	9	2	1	1	1	21	10	-	1
West Zealand	6	3	2	2	1	3	17	8	2	-
Storstrøm	11	7	2	2	2	3	13	9	1	-
Bornholm	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	2	-	-
Funen	16	9	14	4	8	3	50	27	6	2
South Jutland	11	11	4	6	5	2	18	7	-	-
Ribe	6	9	2	-	3	1	23	17	2	-
Vejle	7	6	7	1	4	3	33	29	1	-
Ringkøbing	10	10	-	-	1	-	29	18	-	1
Aarhus	14	15	3	2	10	4	57	37	6	4
Viborg	16	13	4	2	1	5	20	14	1	-
North Jutland	5	20	6	5	5	3	37	14	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	3	-	-
DK Sep - Oct 2002	149	143	58	33	59	44	473	287	22	15
DK Sep - Oct 2001	157	177	105	54	83	78	592	373	44	27

Barometer for pathogenic intestinal bacteria, September - October 2002

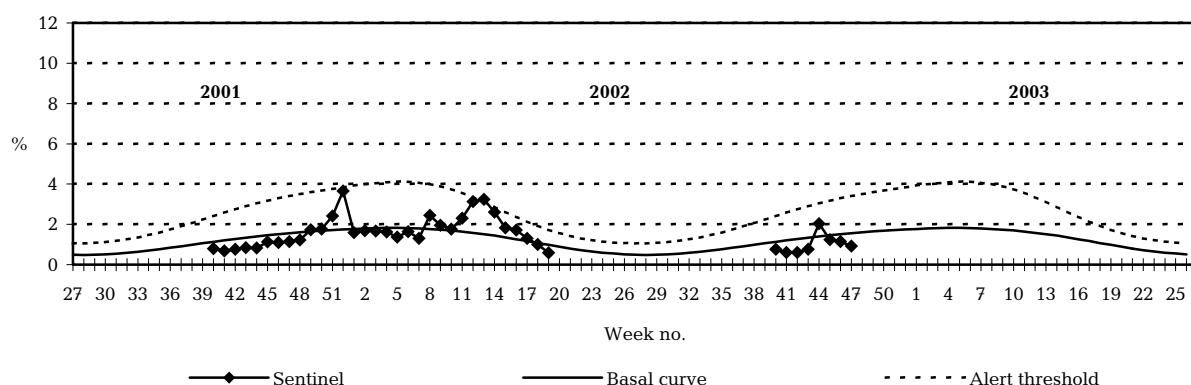


The barometer shows number of disease episodes in the two relevant months compared with the average of 15 two-month periods in the last five years. Further surveillance data can be obtained at www.germ.dk.

(Dept. of G-I Infections)

Sentinel surveillance of influenza activity

Weekly percentage of consultations, 2001/2002/2003



Sentinel: Influenza consultations as percentage of total consultations

Basal curve: Expected frequency of influenza consultations under non-epidemic conditions

Alert threshold: Possible incipient epidemic

(Dept. of Epidemiology)