

### Reemergence of *Plasmodium vivax* Malaria in the Republic of Korea

**To the Editor:** In "Reemergence of *Plasmodium vivax* malaria in the Republic of Korea" (1), the term eradication was, in my judgment, inappropriately used. In 1981, Yekutieli proposed that eradication is "The purposeful reduction of specific disease prevalence to the point of continued absence of transmission within a specified area by means of a time limited campaign" (2). In 1984, Hinman proposed an important addition that eradication must have followed a "deliberate effort" (3). At the Dahlem Workshop in 1997 (4), a more comprehensive definition was proposed. This definition states that eradication is "Permanent reduction to zero of the worldwide incidence of infection caused by a specific agent as a result of deliberate efforts; intervention measures are no longer needed" (4). At the same conference, two other terms were also defined. Elimination of disease: "Reduction to zero of the incidence of a specified disease in a defined geographic area as a result of deliberate efforts; continued intervention measures are required." Elimination of infection: "Reduction to zero of the incidence of infection caused by a specific agent in a defined geographic area as a result of deliberate efforts; continued measures to prevent reestablishment of transmission are required."

These definitions promote unanimity in using the term eradication and avoid misconceptions over accomplishments.

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#### References

1. Feighner BH, Pak SI, Novakoski WL, Kelsey LL, Strickman D. Reemergence of *Plasmodium vivax* malaria in the Republic of Korea. *Emerg Infect Dis* 1998;2:295-7.
2. Yekutieli P. Lessons from the big eradication campaigns. *World Health Forum* 1981;2:465-81.
3. Himnan AR. Prospects for disease eradication or elimination. *New York State General Medicine* 1984;84:502-6.
4. Ottesen EA, Dowdle WR, Fenner F, Habermehl KO, John TJ, Koch MA et al. In: Eradication of infectious diseases. Dowdle WR, Hopkins DR, editors. New York: John Wiley and Sons; 1997. p. 48.

### Paratyphoid Fever

**To the Editor:** The letter on paratyphoid fever by Kapil et al. (1) stated that an outbreak of enteric fever due to *Salmonella paratyphi* A has never been reported. A large (227 cases) outbreak of enteric fever secondary to *S. paratyphi* A occurred in the Arabian Gulf nation of Bahrain in 1987. The clinical and epidemiologic details of the outbreak were reported in a local medical society journal (2). Like the outbreak described by Kapil et al., the Bahraini outbreak was associated with sewage leaking into the water supply.

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#### References

1. Kapil A, Sood S, Reddaiah VP, Das B, Seth P. Paratyphoid fever due to *Salmonella enterica* serotype paratyphi A. [Lett]. *Emerg Infect Dis* 1997;3:407.
2. Al-Madani R. Paratyphoid Outbreak in children. *Journal of the Bahrain Medical Society* 1989;1:60-3.

### Hospitalizations After the Persian Gulf War

**To the Editor:** Knoke et al., Naval Health Research Center, San Diego, California, published two articles on military hospitalizations in Persian Gulf War veterans, the most recent in *Emerging Infectious Diseases* (1,2).

Although the titles of both articles indicated general hospitalizations, Knoke et al. studied just military hospitalizations among selected, mostly healthy, active-duty Persian Gulf War veterans enlisted as of 1994. They compared military hospitalizations of active-duty Gulf War veterans (cases) with military hospitalizations of active-duty era veterans not in the Persian Gulf between 1990 and 1991 (controls). "Healthy warrior" effects would have predicted low military hospitalization rates for both cases and control populations (3), but both were high.

The studies were "restricted to active-duty personnel" hospitalized in military facilities because active-duty personnel were "rarely hospitalized outside of DoD facilities" (1). However, of 150 surgical procedures, mostly