Special Issue

Orientia tsutsugamushi Infection

Message from the Guest Editor

Scrub typhus is a life-threatening mite-borne infectious disease caused by *Orientia tsutsugamushi,* and it is transmitted primarily by the bite of the larvae of *Leptotrombidium* spp. mite (Acari: Trombiculiidae) infected with *Orientia* species. The disease is endemic in Asian countries and the western Pacific area, an area known as the "tsutsugamushi triangle", and causes an estimated one million cases annually. Recently, scrub typhus has also been reported outside the usual endemic region, in areas such as South American and African countries, far from the tsutsugamushi triangle, which suggests a wider global distribution of this disease and is attracting more attention to the neglected disease. Nevertheless, the global incidence of scrub typhus is poorly defined because of the limited epidemiological data in many of the endemic countries. After a bite from an infective mite, a characteristic necrotic inoculation lesion (an eschar) can develop, and the signs and symptoms of scrub typhus typically develop within 1–2 weeks of infection and include fever, headache, malaise, and gastrointestinal symptoms.

Guest Editor

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

The worldwide impact of infectious disease is incalculable. The consequences for human health in terms of morbidity and mortality are obvious and vast but, when infections of animals and plants are also taken into account, it is hard to imagine any other disease that has such a significant impact on our lives—on healthcare systems, on agriculture and on world economics. *Pathogens* is proud to continue to serve the international community by publishing high quality studies that further our understanding of infection and have meaningful consequences for disease intervention.

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