



## Outbreak of measles in Tunisian adults in 2019

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### Abstract:

**Introduction-** Measles is an acute viral illness. It is one of the most transmissible viral infections. From 1 January through 30 April 2019, the Tunisian Health Ministry responded to a large measles outbreak in the country. A total of 3 141 suspected cases, of which 909 (28.9%) were laboratory confirmed and 1 236 (39.4 %) epidemiologically linked cases including 30 deaths (case fatality ratio=1.0 %), have been reported in all of the 24 governorates.

**Objective-** The objective of our study is to report the cases of measles that were hospitalized in our department.

**Methods and materials-** We conducted a retrospective study (March-June 2019) in the department of infectious diseases at La Rabta University hospital in Tunis. All the adults (aged>15) with a suspected case of measles were hospitalized. The diagnosis was confirmed by positivity for IgM antibodies against measles virus and/or reverse-transcriptase polymerase chain reaction in blood in the laboratory of virology of Charles Nicolle university hospital.

**Results-** We report here 21 adult patients, with sex ratio of 1.1 (11/10). The mean age was 38 (29-58) years. The vaccination rate against measles was very low. Only 10% of the patients were vaccinated against this virus. The clinical features included fever, fatigue, cough, coryza, conjunctivitis and maculopapular rash. The diagnosis was confirmed in all the patients by positivity of IgM antibodies against measles (17 cases) and PCR (4 cases). All the patients were isolated, and the treatment was symptomatic. Pulmonary complication was reported in 9 cases (42.8%). One patient was hospitalized in the intensive care unit for respiratory failure. No case of death was reported.

**Conclusion-** Early diagnosis with subsequent isolation and registration of patients are important measures to prevent local outbreaks of the disease as well as immunization. The vaccine coverage in the general population should be as high as 95% to provide herd protection.

### Biography:

University hospital assistant in Infectious diseases, La Rabta University Hospital, Tunis, Tunisia. Hejer Harrabi is Born in 20 June 1980, Kairouan, Tunisia; Single.

Medical Studies: University of Medicine Sfax, Tunisia; François



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**Diploma:** Doctor in medicine in 2009, specialist in infectious diseases in 2010, University diploma (U.D) "Vaccinology", U.D of Washington University "Clinical Management of HIV", UD "Reanimation in infectious diseases", U.D "Antibiotherapy", U.D "Geriatric medicine", U.D. "Medical pedagogy"

**Career:** Referring doctor in infectious diseases and clinical researcher in the infectious diseases department, CHRU Tours, France (2009-2011); Public health doctor specialized in infectious diseases, CHU Ibn Eljazzar (2012-2014); University hospital assistant in the infectious diseases department, CHU La Rabta, El Manar University, Tunis (2014 - to now)

**Articles:** Chronic Hepatitis E and Immunosuppressive Therapy (N Engl J Med 2014), Uncomplicated urinary tract infection (N Engl J Med, 2012), Molecular diagnosis of Rickettsia infection in patients from Tunisia (Ticks Tick Borne Dis. 2016), A probably isolated subclavicular lymphadenopathy in acute leukemia: An unusual manifestation of cryptococcosis (Myc. Med 2010), Bilateral emphysematous pyelonephritis caused by Candida glabrata: An exceptional entity (J. Nephro 2010).

e-book: Tuberculous tenosynovitis: literature review (July 2016)

### Publication of speakers:

1. Chronic Hepatitis E and Immunosuppressive Therapy (N Engl J Med 2014),
2. Uncomplicated urinary tract infection (N Engl J Med, 2012), Molecular diagnosis of Rickettsia infection in patients from Tunisia (Ticks Tick Borne Dis. 2016),
3. A probably isolated subclavicular lymphadenopathy in acute leukemia: An unusual manifestation of cryptococcosis (Myc. Med 2010),

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