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Congenital toxoplasmosis: Implementation of a surveillance system in France

Pr I Villena

University Reims Champagne-Ardenne, France

The national prevention programme for congenital toxoplasmosis in France has been in place since 1978; however, no data is available concerning the annual number of cases. In order to estimate the perinatal burden of this infection, and to follow the impact of the national prevention programme, a surveillance system was implemented in 2007 by the National Reference Centre on Toxoplasmosis with support of Santé Publique France. We recommended a laboratory-based surveillance system as being the most adapted for the surveillance of this infection. Several surveys were undertaken, in order to define the network of contributors, and optimize the exhaustively of the surveillance. The surveillance system put in place, named ToxoSurv, is based on a network of laboratories specialized in prenatal and postnatal diagnosis and medical biology laboratories that occasionally perform a confirmatory diagnosis of this infection during the neonatal and postnatal periods. Cases are declared to the National Reference Centre for Toxoplasmosis via the Internet or by the sending of a paper form. The data produced by this surveillance will be used to produce an annual report destined for concerned health professionals. The surveillance system for congenital toxoplasmosis has been active since June 2007 and provided valid prevalence data for congenital toxoplasmosis in France. The number of congenital toxoplasmosis appears to be stable in France since 10 years with few cases of severe toxoplasmosis and high proportion of subclinical forms. We also present French studies for treatment of congenital toxoplasmosis in antenatal and neonatal period.

ivillena@chu-reims.fr