FEVER IN THE CHILD COMING FROM THE TROPICS

15 YEARS EXPERIENCE

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INTRODUCTION

International travels have grown significantly over last years, as well as imported diseases from tropical areas. Information about paediatric age is scarce.

Our **objective** is to describe the **demographic and clinical characteristics** of febrile children coming from the tropics.

METHODS

Retrospective review of patients <18 years old presenting at a tertiary hospital and surrounding primary health care centers with stay in a tropical region during the last year **between July 2002 and July 2017**.

Patients were selected from microbiological charts of **thick smears for malaria and dengue serologies**.

RESULTS

- **Total n: 162** patients.
- *Born in Spain*: 49,4%
- *Mean age*: 3,5 years-old (p25 1,4- p75 8,0)
- *Pre-travel consultation*: 18%
- *Complete chemophylaxis*: 7,4%
- *First consulted service*:
 - 81,9% Emergency Room
 - 19,1% Primary Care Health Centre

MOST FREQUENT DIAGNOSES

- 1º **Malaria** (37 patients, 22%)
- 2º **Upper respiratory tract infection** (17 patients, 10,5%)
- 3º **Viral gastroenteritis** (10 patients, 6,2%)

Destination/Origin area (%)

Reason for travelling (%)

CLINICAL MANAGEMENT

- 52% Outpatient management
- 40% Admitted to paediatric ward
- 6,8% Paediatric Intensive Care Unit

CONCLUSIONS

- Nearly **a quarter** of the febrile children coming from the topics had **malaria**.
- **7%** of the patients were admitted to **Intensive Care Unit**.
- **1st consulted place was Emergency Room** for more than 80% of the patients while the rest went to Primary Care Health Centre.
- **Less than one out of five patients** attended to a **pre-travel consultation**.