



MINISTERO DELLA SALUTE

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Documento Interno

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Ai Responsabili delle Strutture regionali
di coordinamento per le attività trasfusionali
delle Regioni e Province Autonome

Alle Direzione del Servizio Trasfusionale
delle Forze Armate

Alle Associazioni e Federazioni Donatori
Sangue:

AVIS
CRI
FIDAS
FRATRES

E, p.c.:

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Direttore Generale

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Direttore Ufficio VIII - Sangue e Trapianti

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Direttore Ufficio V

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Dott.ssa Nicoletta Sacchi
Italian Bone Marrow Donor Registry (IBMDR)

OGGETTO: *Rapid alert* - "Malaria cases in Greece up to 28th September 2015".

Gentili Dottori,

è pervenuto allo scrivente Centro un *Rapid alert* relativo a "Malaria cases in Greece up to 28th September 2015" caricato/aggiornato nel gruppo d'interesse Rapid Alert System for Human Blood and Blood Components (Categoria: Health and Food Safety) in data 30 settembre 2015. Tale documento non risulta ancora accessibile allo scrivente Centro e sarà inviato non appena disponibile.

Nel *rapid alert* di cui all'oggetto, si evidenzia tuttavia il riscontro da parte dell'*Hellenic Centre for Disease Control and Prevention* (KEELPNO/HCDP/MOH) di 4 casi autoctoni confermati di malaria nell'anno 2015.



Sebbene la Grecia non sia "Zona endemica" per la malaria, alcune sue Regioni sono da considerarsi ad alto rischio. Nel succitato *alert* si evidenzia il potenziale rischio associato alla donazione di sangue ed emocomponenti legato ai viaggiatori di ritorno dalle aree della Grecia in cui sono stati riscontrati i casi autoctoni e/o sono state poste in essere misure di sorveglianza trasfusionale ed entomologica più stringenti, cioè le Prefetture di: **Trikala, Karditsa, Lakonia, Viotia, Evia, Larissa** (Figura 1, allegata alla presente).

Ai fini della sicurezza trasfusionale, fermo restando le disposizioni contenute nel Decreto del Ministro della Salute 3 marzo 2005 "*Protocolli per l'accertamento della idoneità del donatore di sangue e di emocomponenti*" (G.U. n° 85 13/04/2005), per evitare la possibile trasmissione attraverso la donazione da soggetti viremici asintomatici ritornanti dalle aree interessate, si rappresenta:

- la necessità di rafforzare le misure di sorveglianza anamnestica e, qualora si rilevino soggetti con anamnesi positiva per viaggi nelle aree sopra indicate (Prefetture della Grecia), di applicare il criterio di sospensione temporanea di 6 mesi qualora non sia possibile l'esecuzione di saggi molecolari o sierologici per la diagnosi di malaria (Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR), Indirect Fluorescence Antibody Test (IFAT), Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA));
- la necessità di sensibilizzare il donatore nel comunicare al Servizio trasfusionale di riferimento la comparsa di una febbre di origine sconosciuta successiva alla donazione.

Cordiali saluti.

Il Direttore del Centro Nazionale Sangue
Dott. Giancarlo Maria Liumbruno

Referente Amministrativo
Segreteria Area Sanitaria
Dott. Giacomo Silvioli

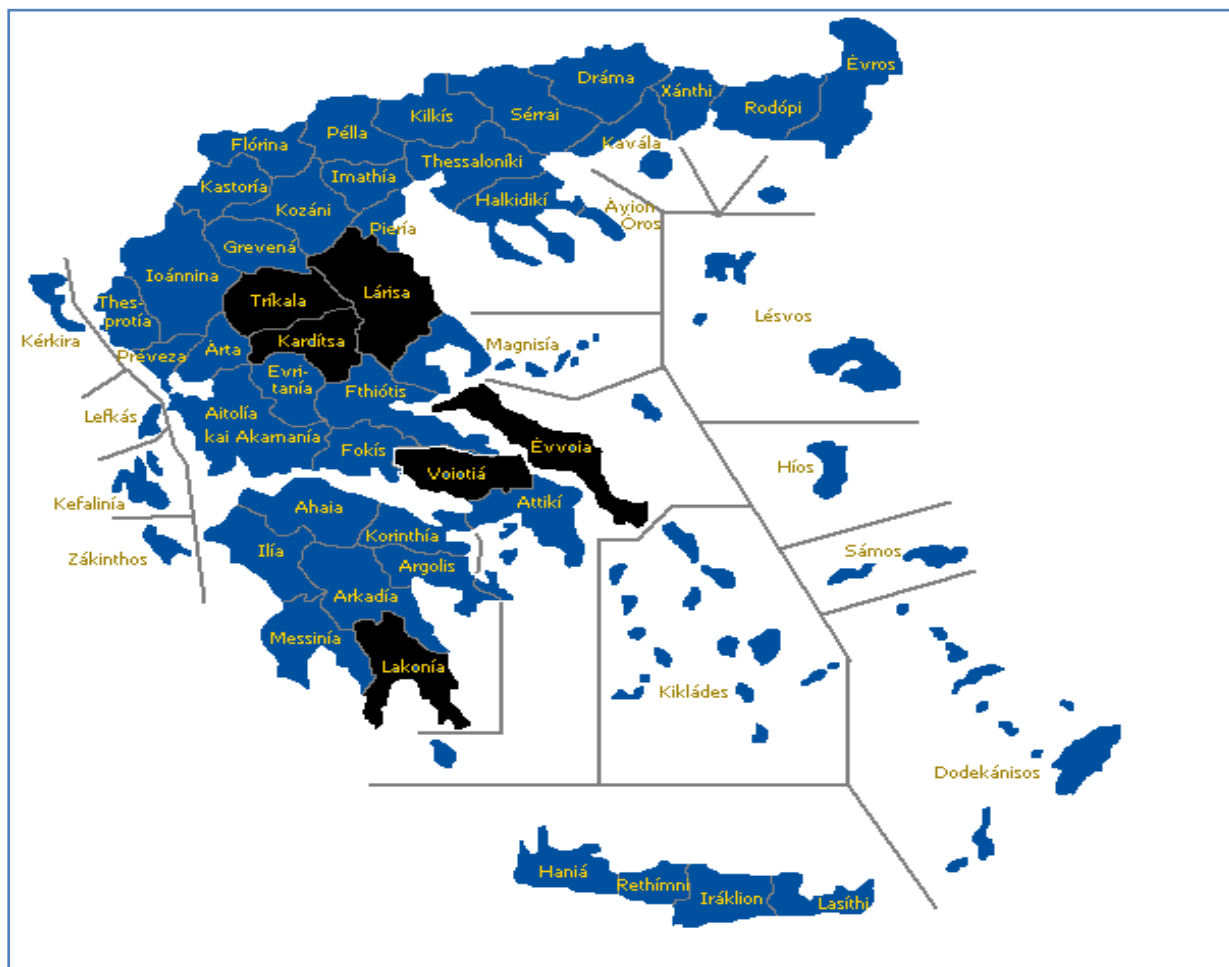


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Figura 1: In nero le Prefetture dove sono state implementate misure di sicurezza trasfusionale.



Introduced locally acquired malaria cases in Greece up to 28th September 2015: measures for blood safety

According to information from the Hellenic Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (KEELPNO) a total of 46 laboratory confirmed cases of malaria were reported up to 28th September 2015. Forty two (42) cases are classified as imported; 34 cases in immigrants from malaria endemic countries and 8 cases in travelers to endemic countries.

Following a period of four years of intensive control measures to manage the reintroduction of Plasmodium Vivax Malaria the absence of such cases in 2014, four (4) locally acquired (introduced) malaria cases were reported to KE.EL.P.NO this year.

- The first case was reported in the municipality of **Farkadona, prefecture of Trikala**- region of Thessaly. The case is a 56 years old male of Greek nationality. The onset of symptoms was on the 4th August. The case reported no travel to any malaria endemic country and no history of recent blood transfusion.
- The second case was reported in Elos, **municipality of Evrotas, prefecture of Lakonia**. The case is a 40 years old female of Roumanian nationality who has been in Greece and working in Elos for the last 18 months. The onset of symptoms was on the 2nd September. She has no history of travel to any malaria endemic country and she has not reported recent blood transfusion.
- The third case is a male of Albanian nationality 21 years of age. The onset of symptoms was on 16th August. He was living and working temporarily for a period of one month (20/7/2015-20/08/2015) as a shepherd near the lake Paralimni **municipality of Theva – prefecture of Viotia** in the border with the municipality of Chalkida – prefecture of Evia. When this individual fell ill, he returned to his home country, where malaria was diagnosed and the case was reported to KEELPNO. He has no history of travel to any country endemic for malaria and has not received any recent blood transfusion.
- The fourth case was reported in **Evangelismos ,municipality of Tempi – prefecture of Larisa** – region of Thessaly. The case is a male of Greek nationality 40 years of age without history of travel to any malaria endemic country and he has not reported recent blood transfusion. The onset of symptoms was on the 8th September.

Considering that Greece is not an endemic country for malaria and that all four aforementioned areas have been characterized as high risk regions for local transmission of malaria, public health and blood safety measures were implemented following an opinion of an intersector Working Group on the designation of affected areas by vector borne diseases.

Public health measures include enhancement of malaria surveillance and focus investigation, environmental and vector investigation, proactive malaria case detection in Evrotas Lakonia, enhancing laboratory diagnosis of malaria, increase awareness amongst health professionals and guidance for local authorities.

Blood safety and haemovigilance measures

Measures for affected areas

Since 21th August 2015

- Pellingon and Oichalias (Neochoriou), Municipality of Farkadona and Estiotida and Kalivia, Municipality of Trikkeon, Prefecture of Trikala
- Sellanon, Municipality of Palama, Prefecture of Karditsa

Since 21th September 2015

- Skala and Elos, Municipality of Evrotas, Prefecture of Lakonia

Since 28th September 2015

- Paralimni, Municipality of Theva – Prefecture of Viotia
- Municipality of Chalkida – Prefecture of Evia
- Evangelismos, Municipality of Tempi – Prefecture of Larisa
- Reinforcement of the donor clinical evaluation, particularly for residents of or visitors to the affected areas
- Suspension of blood sessions in the affected areas and surrounding agricultural villages within a **radius of 6 km** for a period of six months.
- Temporary deferral from blood donation of asymptomatic persons residing or working in the above areas and visitors (at least one overnight stay) for a period of six months, unless PCR and Immunological testing (Elisa or IFAT) is available
- Temporary exclusion from blood donation of Greek citizens with family history of malaria

General precautionary measures

For individuals

who have lived in malarial area within the first five years of life,

with a history of malaria,

with a history of undiagnosed febrile illness during or within six months of a visit to an endemic area

For asymptomatic visitors to endemic areas

All other persons who have visited a malaria endemic area without reporting any clinical symptoms consistent with malaria

Measures are in conformity with Directive 2004/33/EC and the Guide to the preparation, use and quality assurance of blood components-EDQM, Council of Europe, 2013 and the Malaria ECDC Malaria Expert Opinions 2012-2013

Haemovigilance measures

- Post-donation information

Request all donors to inform blood collecting services in case of fever of unknown origin (undiagnosed) after donation, in order to examine for malaria

- Post-transfusion information

In case of incidence of transfusion-transmitted malaria, apply look-back and traceability studies, including call up and blood testing of implicated blood donors

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