Media Scanning & Verification Cell

Media alert from the Media Scanning & Verification Cell, IDSP-NCDC.

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3601	26.08.2016	26.08.2016	**Gurgaon** **Haryana**	www.timesofindia.com/English http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/gurgaon/Chikungunya-sneaks-into-Gurgaon/articleshow/53851035.cms

Title:	**Chikungunya sneaks into Gurgaon, Haryana**
Action By CSU, IDSP –NCDC	Information communicated to DSU- **Gurgaon,** SSU-**Haryana**

After making an appearance in Delhi, chikungunya has made inroads into the millennium city as well.City-based private hospitals told TOI that there are at least 10 confirmed cases of chikungunya, while 60% of the patients in the OPDs (internal medicine) of city hospitals reported symptoms of the disease.

Dr Satish Kaul of Columbia Asia hospital said it has struck Gurgaon like an epidemic. "Every day, we are witnessing so many cases with symptoms of chikungunya. From youngsters to pregnant women and the elderly, we are seeing hundreds of chikungunya cases. I think chikungunya is more widespread than dengue this time around," Kaul said.

Kaul blamed severe waterlogging on roads and at construction sites for the outbreak of vector-borne diseases. "Be it chikungunya or dengue, the cause is mosquito. We are getting so many cases from Palam Vihar and adjoining areas because of the waterlogging in those areas. Construction sites are majorly responsible for waterlogging and hence mosquito breeding," he said.

Echoing Kaul's words, Dr Rajesh Kumar from Paras Hospital said there were many cases with symptoms of chikungunya in Paras too. "A major difference between

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dengue and chikungunya is that patients suffering from chikungunya get severe pain in their joints, which makes it mandatory to prescribe pain killers. While the platelet count doesn't go below 1.8 lakh in the case of chikungunya, it goes down to 20,000 in dengue."

Doctors in Civil Hospital also said that every third patient with viral fever has symptoms of chikungunya. "Even though causalities are not witnessed in chikungunya, the join pain is severe. The pain in chikungunya patients lasts for anywhere between 20 days and three months. It makes it extremely painful and difficult for patients. This time we are witnessing more cases with chikungunya symptoms than those of dengue," said a doctor at Civil Hospital, requesting anonymity.

Talking about the precautions that need to be taken in the case of chikungunya, Dr Amitabh Parthi, additional director, Internal Medicine, Fortis Hospital said, "Dengue and chikungunya have seen an overall 40% footfall," Parthi said.

He stressed that patients have to be treated on the basis of the symptoms. "Hydration should be of primary importance. One should drink at least 1.5 litres of more water than the regular consumption as dehydration can aggravate the problem," Parthis said.

The district health authorities, on the other hand, don't have any official statistics on chikungunya. "So far we can't say there are any confirmed cases of chikungunya. However, we are taking all the precautions and will soon start surveillance for the disease," said an official at the district health department.

Chief medical officer Dr Ramesh Dhankar told TOI, said the anti-vector drive was on in full swing. "We are spreading awareness about viral fever. The precautions and causes are the same in dengue and chikungunya," Dhankar said.

When asked about the cleanliness drive by MCG to prevent the spread of vector-borne diseases, an MCG official said, "Door-to-door surveillance is on. Every day more than 10 areas are being covered. We are regularly carrying out cleanliness and santitation drives to keep a check on larvae growth. Besides, the awareness campaign by the authorities in schools helps in educating families."