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

Alert ID	Publication Date	Reporting Date	Place Name	News Source/Publication Language
4102	10.06.2017	12.06.2017	Pune Maharashtra	www.timesofindia.com/English http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/13-new-patients-with-filariasis-found-in-khadki/articleshow/59079478.cms
Title:	13 new patients with filariasis found in Khadki area of Pune district, Maharashtra			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU- Pune, SSU- Maharashtra			

At a time when the country is consolidating efforts to eliminate lymphatic filariasis by 2017, as many as 13 new patients have been found infected with microfilariae, the minute larva of a filaria, in the Khadki area of Pune during surveillance activity a few days ago.

The detection of these patients has put the state health machinery on its toes, prompting officials to carry out mass surveillance. They collected blood smears of local residents and also initiated anti-larval activity to destroy breeding of Culex mosquitoes, which are primary vectors of the infectious disease in the urban and semi-urban areas.

Filariasis is a parasitic disease caused by microscopic worms, which are transmitted through the bite of a mosquito. Many patients with the disease have no symptoms, but some develop large swelling in the arms, legs or genitals.

"There are sporadic cases, but this is the first time that cases of filariasis have been found in a cluster in Pune," B R Mane, entomologist of the state health department, told TOI.

State health officials have administered treatment to the infected patients. "None of them are locals. They were migrants," Mane said.

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**Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), National Centre for Disease Control,
Ministry Of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India**

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The infected patients were treated with DEC (Diethylcarbamazine citrate) tablets that kill the circulating microfilariae in the blood and prevent infected people from giving the disease to someone else. Thereafter, the state health officials strengthened surveillance measures in the Khadki area and collected 1,000 blood smears of residents living in and around the areas where infected individuals were residing.

"None of the blood smears tested positive for filariasis. That was a huge relief. But, we have not lowered the guards and routine surveillance activities are going on," Mane said, adding that anti-larval activity has been carried out in the area to destroy Culex mosquito breeding.

A civic health official said, "We don't report cases of filariasis these days. A sporadic case is sometimes reported by private hospitals."

Infectious disease expert Bharat Purandare said, "We hardly see cases in cluster these days. I see a patient of filariasis in six months or more. It is often seen that patient neglect the disease and don't take proper treatment. This eventually leads to complications at later stage."

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