



Emerging and Reemerging Infectious Diseases, Region of the Americas

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Hantavirus in Uruguay, Department of Rocha, near the Brazilian Border

On 16 August 2004, the Ministry of Public Health of Uruguay reported the occurrence of three cases of Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS), all from the Department of Rocha in the area bordering on Brazil.

The first case came from a consultation made on 12 August involving a 38-year-old man and evolved with a severe respiratory profile followed by death. Serological testing resulted positive for hantavirus, the patient having been camping outdoors to go fishing and hunt nutrias (*Myocastor coipus*) in the area around Bañados de Arroyo San Miguel (near Chui and the Brazilian Border), Rocha Department, Uruguay.

The other two cases involve the man's two children (ages 6 and 12), who on 12 August were brought in for medical attention, one for acute respiratory syndrome requiring hospitalization and the other with a flu-like profile. Serological testing on both of them resulted positive for hantavirus. Both children are recovering.

The Ministry of Public Health of Uruguay has initiated public-awareness activities for the general public on prevention and control measures for hantavirus.

Source: Report to PAHO from the Ministry of Public Health of Uruguay.