

International meeting of countries that are facing Leptospirosis outbreaks in the Americas



Experience of Leptospirosis in the Republic of El Salvador

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In his presentation Dr. Suarez shared the country's experiences, the epidemiological history of this disease of mandatory reporting. He also discussed how cases occur in accordance with the rainy season and likewise with factors such as disorganized urbanization. Due to deaths the need to develop clinical guidelines for diagnosis was recognized. He showed the serovars detected from 2004 to 2011 in the country, shared data from confirmed cases and serovars isolated by department, municipality, sex, age and year with a strong relationship with flooded areas and places with difficulties for water drainage. He noted that the effects not only affect health but also the country's economy. He explained the tables with percentages of cases by department and the risk stratification. He said that the country has a national plan and a program for surveillance, control and prevention of the disease, in which other institutions are involved. He mentioned the main activities of the plan and the program and the authorities' procedures against an outbreak. Specifically, the plan includes a good characterization of the outbreak, study of potential risk factors, among others; he also described the protocol that is followed for the confirmation of cases and gave a brief description of the organization of multisectoral teams involved in the control of outbreaks. To conclude, he referred to the needs for the control of outbreaks, pointing as an important point the training of recently graduated health professionals, included since undergraduate.