

Congo-Crimean Haemorrhagic Fever in Greece

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The event

- June 2008: notification of a CCHF case to the HCDCP
- 46 year-old woman from Rhodope (Northern Greece)
- Agricultural worker
- Tick-bite 5 days before the symptoms' onset
- No history of traveling abroad, or of a contact with livestock, other animals, or an ill person

Clinical presentations

□ Early:

- Fever
- Headache
- Nausea

□ Later:

- Hematomas at injection site
- Diffuse petechial rash
- Genital hemorrhage

Laboratory investigation findings (1)

- WBC: 5.62×10^9 cells/l (81.4% neutrophils and 15.5% lymphocytes)
- Platelets: 100×10^9 cells/l
- Hemoglobin: 11.5g/dl
- Ht: 33.5%
- SGOT: 3962 U/l, SGPT: 1545 U/l
- Lactate dehydrogenase: 8085 U/l
- aPTT: 82.6 s, INR: 1.75

Laboratory investigation findings (2)

- Tests for HFRS, leptospirosis and rickettsial diseases: negative
- Confirmation of CCHF diagnosis with reverse transcriptase-nested PCR and quantitative real time PCR (WHO collaborative center for research and reference on Arboviruses and Hemorrhagic Fever Viruses, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece)
- Phylogenetically similar causative strain to the CCHF strains circulating in the Balkan countries north of Greece, Turkey, and Southwest Russia

The following days

- Patient died 7 days following the onset of symptoms
- 15 additional patients, all with a history of tick bite and fever, have tested negative for CCHF
- None of the contacts of the patient (family members or healthcare workers) developed any symptom

This was the 1st CCHF case in Greece