TravMil
Deployment and Travel Related Infectious Disease Risk Assessment, Outcomes, and Prevention Strategies Among Department of Defense Beneficiaries
Executive Summary – Deployment

Purpose:

- Describe the clinical features and outcomes of high-impact, militarily relevant infectious diseases among deployed US Department of Defense (DoD) active duty and other beneficiaries traveling outside the continental United States.
- Focus on four key infectious disease areas of interest: i) travelers' diarrhea, ii) malaria and other vector-borne febrile illnesses, iii) influenza-like illness; and iv) emerging infectious diseases.
- Evaluate current and new risk reduction and self-treatment strategies with regard to compliance, efficacy, effectiveness, cost-effectiveness, and side effect profile

Inclusion Criteria:

1. Pre-deployment enrollment: Deployment outside of the continental United States within 3 months
2. Post-deployment enrollment: Completed deployment outside of the continental United States within 2 months of enrollment

Exclusion Criteria:

1. Planned or completed travel is limited to Western or Northern Europe, Canada, or New Zealand
2. Planned or completed travel time is >6.5 months

Study Procedures:

Pre-deployment enrollment:

1. A pre-deployment survey completed by participants
2. If deemed feasible by PI, blood samples obtained prior to deployment and up to 8 weeks after return to evaluate for potential infectious disease exposures (e.g. dengue, chikungunya etc.).
3. A 1 page diary to record episodes of diarrhea and fever that occur during deployment as well as the severity of symptoms and treatment used.
4. If deemed feasible by PI, a self-collected stool smear obtained on a filter paper card prior to deployment and either during an episode of diarrhea during deployment or towards the end of deployment if no diarrhea occurs
5. A post-deployment survey completed within 2 months of return from deployment.
6. An extended follow-up survey for symptoms of functional bowel disorders at 3 and 6 months after return from deployment.

Post-deployment Enrollment:

1. A post-deployment enrollment survey completed by participants at enrollment
2. Allowance from enrollees for investigators to obtain pre- and post- deployment serum from the Department of Defense Serum Repository (DoDSR) for serologic analyses of travel-related infectious diseases (e.g. dengue, chikungunya etc.)
3. An extended follow-up survey for symptoms of functional bowel disorders at 3 and 6 months after return from deployment.

Primary Objectives:

1) Describe the clinical features, impact and outcomes of travelers' diarrhea (TD), febrile illness, influenza-like-illness, and emerging infectious diseases during deployment and travel.
2) Estimate the effectiveness of selected risk-reduction and self-treatment strategies using serological surrogates of exposure, PCR testing and post-travel surveys that assess utilization, compliance, side effects, and preventive and/or therapeutic effectiveness, for the following:
   a. Traveler's Diarrhea (antibiotics and anti-diarrheal agents)
   b. Vector borne febrile illness including
      i) Malaria (personal protective measures [PPM] and antimalarial chemoprophylaxis);
      ii) Arboviral/ rickettsial infections (PPMs);
      iii) Leptospirosis
   c. Influenza like Illness
   d. Emerging infectious disease (e.g. chikungunya)
3) Utilize the TravMil cohort as a platform for conducting observational studies and clinical trials (through companion protocols).
4) Evaluate the utility of the self-collected stool smears combined with molecular assays for detection of enteropathogens associated with travelers' diarrhea

Study Sites:

- Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, VA
- Naval Medical Center San Diego, CA
- Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, MD
- Madigan Army Medical Center, WA
- San Antonio Military Medical Center, TX
- Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany

Laboratory Sites/Collaborators:

- Research Lab, Naval Medical Center Portsmouth
- Naval Medical Research Center, Silver Spring, MD
- Leptospirosis Center of Excellence, San Antonio, TX

Study coordination:

- Infectious Disease Clinical Research Program/Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, MD

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Principal Investigator:
Tahaniyat Lalani MD, MHS
Infectious Disease Research Physician,
Infectious Disease Clinical Research Program
Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth, VA 23708
Email: tahaniyat.lalani.ctr@mail.mil / tlalani@idcrp.org
Ph: (757) 953-5659
Fax: (757) 953-5514