

Cholera in Cambodia

On November 15th 2009 the first case of Cholera was hospitalized in Children's Hospital Kantha Bopha IV in Phnom Penh. As soon the diagnosis Cholera was confirmed by our laboratory the Ministry of Health was informed. We informed about all the following and all the single cases. Officials were and are sent from the Ministry in our Hospital day by day, in order to note the address, in order to explore the living area of our Cholera patients, and in order to initiate the efficient measures of prevention in these areas against Cholera.

Up today there are in the Kantha Bopha Hospitals already 80 Cholera cases confirmed by the bacteriology. 28 children arrived in severe conditions in shock with kidney failure. So far all these Cholera children, who were brought to the Kantha Bopha Hospitals could be reanimated and could be cured.

Most of these Cholera children arrive from the same three areas, from Phnom Penh and next to Phnom Penh along the Mekong in direction to Vietnam. (Kandal , Prey Veng ,Takeo Province).

Only 40% of these patients' parents were informed about an epidemic of diarrhea by officials. The word Cholera was not told.

We ask the authorities to declare the state of emergency in all these areas, all next to Phnom Penh, easy to be reached, where there is Cholera. The epidemic is actually increasing and will increase very fast on March and April. Then there are more flies transporting and distributing the germ " vibrio cholerae" from poor sanitations to the food.

Cholera is a deadly disease. (In contrast what was recently told by WHO's Public Health Specialist Dr. Asgari in "The Cambodia Daily", 2.2.2010) People must be informed in a correct way in order to react as soon they face the first symptoms. The neighbors must be alerted. Recently the parents of two Cholera children hospitalized in Kantha Bopha IV were telling us that a 13 year old girl has died in the neighboring house. The health centers have to be equipped by perfusions and Ceftriaxon. (Chloramphenicol and Bactrim are not working.) All treatment must be given free of charge. It is a simple treatment, as far the patients arrive early enough, but you have to do it immediately, the day and the night.