Should obstetricians working in non-endemic countries care about emerging tropical diseases? A review

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Abstract

Due to migration and travels, obstetricians are increasingly faced with a globalized setting and should adapt their daily clinical approach to the modifications of tropical infections epidemiology. This paper is focused on five emerging infectious diseases, namely Chagas disease, HTLV-1 infection, malaria, schistosomiasis and Zika virus infection, having a high prevalence in migrant populations and which can affect international travelers. These diseases frequently pass unrecognized since they are characterized by few symptoms during pregnancy, however they may cause a relevant maternal, fetal and neonatal impact. Specific diagnostic and treatment options are available but are rarely used during routine obstetrical practice.

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Panel A. Endemic countries for Chagas disease [



Panel B. Global distribution of HTLV-1 infection [31]



Panel C. Global distribution of malaria [38



Panel A. Global distribution of schistomiasis [5



Panel B. Global distribution of Zika virus infection [7]