CORRESPONDENCE

Mixed-Species Malaria Infections in Travelers

To the Editor:

Lehky Hagen and colleagues have provided an interesting and informative analysis of malaria cases detected among Swiss residents returning from trips to Kenya between 1988 and 1996.1 It is surprising that the authors did not note the complete absence of mixed-species infections among those 315 cases, however. In Canada, the UK, Australia, and the United States, for instance, in similar but much smaller samples, mixed-species malaria infections have been reported in 2% to 12% of cases.2–7 There may be clinical value in resolving geographic, patient history, methodological, or other factors associated with this seeming difference, in part because the cure of one Plasmodium species detected in a patient may lead to the emergence of another undetected one.8–10

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References


