

## EDITORIAL

Greetings!

End of hot summer is always welcome, but as monsoon starts there is a change in disease pattern too. With increase humidity and rain there is surge of many infectious disease. Infections like Malaria, Dengue, H1N1 influenza, Crimean-congo hemorrhagic fever, etc increase. So, also water-borne diseases like Salmonella, Shigella, Leptospirosis...over and above the common gastroenteritis and respiratory infections.

In 21<sup>st</sup> century, with improved medical facilities, antibiotics and immunization, mortality of the infectious disease has decreased. But on the other hand poverty, urbanization, overcrowding, and pollution and Antibiotic misuse new infections are emerging and increasing. There are many sites in cities we see water logging, improper drainage, poor sanitation. Increased susceptibility with changing food habits, poor hygiene in people only add to this.

The microbes also are smart and so are adapting to the change in environment and demography. The Mosquitoes are seen breeding around human habitat, and though infection is seen all through the year there is increase in both number and severity in monsoon season. Dengue in last 3 years is endemic but again we see spurts of increase cases in July, August. Traditionally our initial encounter with H1N1 was in cold winter months, but with probable viral adaptation, we have already started seeing cases in hot and humid months. Infants without any specific contact history are also seen.

We as health care providers have a role to play. We need to have high degree of suspicion so as to diagnose these diseases as the disease patterns overlap and make judicious use of Antimicrobials. We should use all opportunities to spread public awareness regarding these diseases symptomatology, when to seek help, available vaccination especially in the vulnerable population.

Best wishes.

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