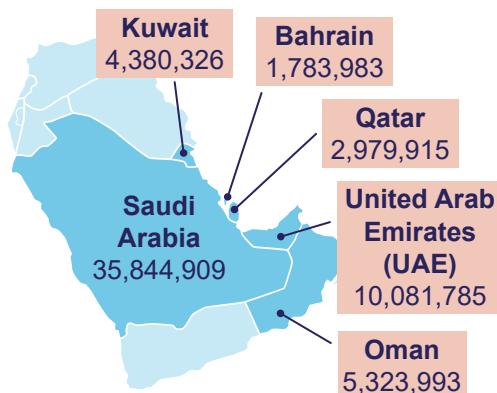


Epidemiology of Varicella Zoster Virus and Herpes Zoster Virus in Gulf Cooperation Council Countries: A Review of the Literature

Selim Badur; Onur Ozudogru; Mansour Khalaf; Serdar Ozturk;
Sarah Albreiki; Salah Al Awaidey; Adriana Guzman-Holst

Populations of the GCC Countries:



Herpes zoster (HZ; or **shingles**) is a disease caused by the reactivation of the varicella zoster virus (VZV; or **chickenpox**)



Risk of shingles **increases with age**, and global trends show an **increasing incidence of shingles**



Shingles is characterized by a painful rash on the face or body

There is limited information on shingles epidemiology in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries

Objective

To critically appraise evidence on **chickenpox** and **shingles epidemiology** in **GCC** countries



PubMed and **local-language journals** were searched to identify articles from GCC countries related to **shingles** and **chickenpox**



Published up until:
January 31, 2022

Chickenpox Seroprevalence:

High chickenpox seroprevalence was observed among children and adults in Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Qatar; no data were identified for Bahrain, Kuwait, or Oman



Chickenpox Incidence:

Chickenpox incidence rates were available from surveillance data reported by the Ministry of Health of each of the GCC countries, except Kuwait, and showed **variable trends**



Shingles Incidence:

There was a **gap in the literature** regarding country-wide trends in **shingles incidence**; most studies came from single clinics and case reports in Saudi Arabia



Chickenpox Vaccination:

There was limited evidence relating to the **impact of vaccination** on chickenpox and shingles incidence



There are **gaps in the literature** regarding the **burden of shingles** and the **impact of chickenpox vaccination** on chickenpox or shingles infection in GCC countries

Global trends of **increasing shingles incidence** and an **ageing population** call for further research into the epidemiology of shingles, to inform future **vaccination programs** in GCC countries



PEER-REVIEWED
INFOGRAPHIC

 Adis

 OPEN
ACCESS

This infographic represents the opinions of the authors. For a full list of declarations, including funding and author disclosure statements, please see the full text online.

© The authors, CC-BY-NC 2022.