

Health problems after travel to developing countries.

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Steffen R¹, Rickenbach M, Wilhelm U, Helminger A, Schär M.

¹Vaccination Center, Institute for Social and Preventive Medicine of the Zurich University, Zurich, Switzerland

Correspondance: Dr. Robert Steffen, Vaccination Center ISPM, Sumatrastrasse 30, CH-8006 Zurich, Switzerland.

Abstract

Travellers to developing countries participated in a follow-up study of the health risks associated with short (less than three months) visits to these nations. Travellers to the Greek or Canary Islands served as a control cohort. Participants completed a questionnaire to elicit information regarding pretravel vaccinations, malaria prophylaxis, and health problems during and after their journey. Relevant infections were confirmed by the respondent's personal physician. The questionnaire was completed by 10,524 travellers; the answer rate was 73.8%. After a visit to developing countries, 15% of the travellers reported health problems, 8% consulted a doctor, and 3% were unable to work for an average of 15 days. The incidence of infection per month abroad was as follows: giardiasis, 7/1,000; amebiasis, 4/1,000; hepatitis, 4/1,000; gonorrhoea, 3/1,000; and malaria, helminthiasis, or syphilis, less than 1/1,000. There were no cases of typhoid fever or cholera.

References

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