

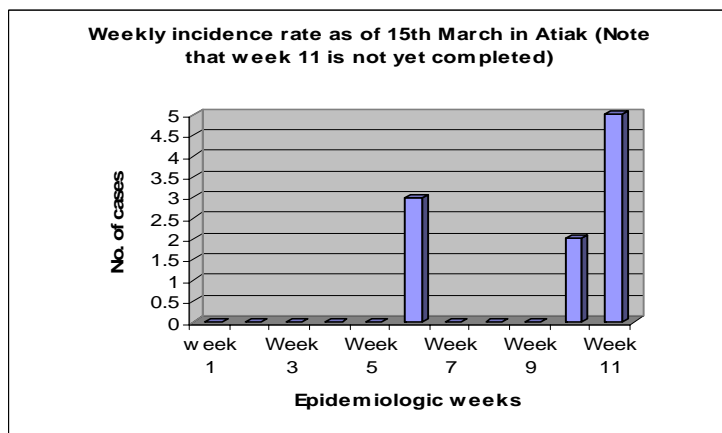
UPDATES ON MENINGITIS OUTBREAK IN ATIAK AS OF 17TH MARCH 2007

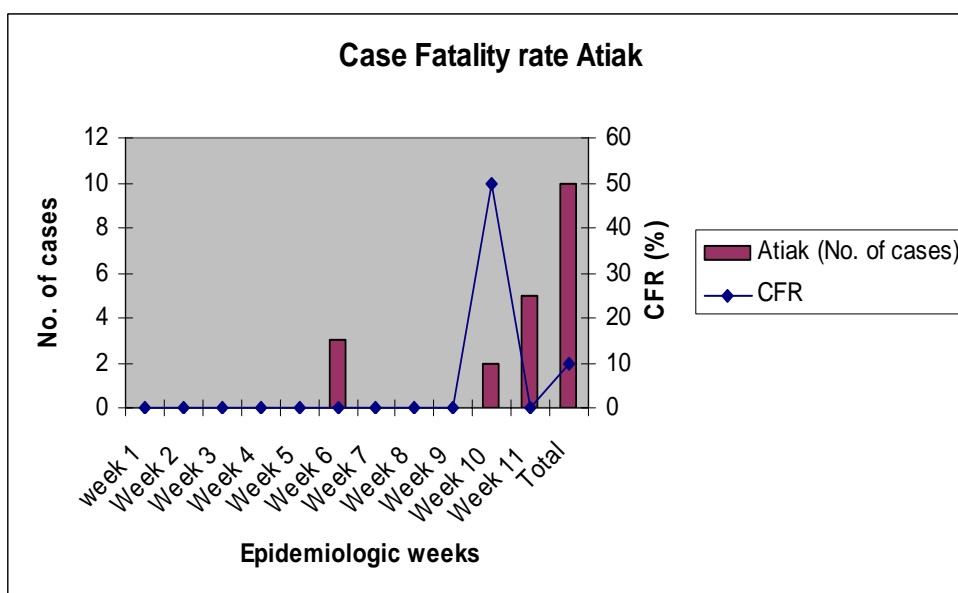
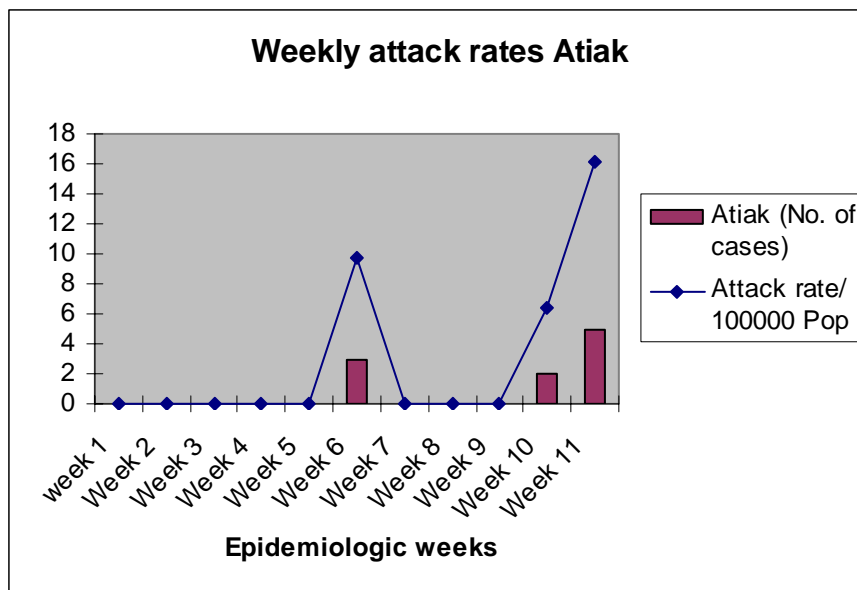
Two episodes of increased M. meningitis cases have occurred in Atiak. The first episode which occurred in the 6th epidemiological week was epidemiologically linked to the outbreak in West Nile. Only 3 cases were reported in the same week. The index case was in Arua before he developed the symptoms. The other two cases were a sister and play mate to the index case. Lumbar puncture in the index case failed but the lab investigation on his sister was positive for Meningococcal meningitides; latex test also proved sero type A.

The second wave started on the 10th epidemiological week. Laboratory investigation on the index case of a male child of 11 years from Bibia camp proved Meningococcal meningitides sero type A. The case was admitted in Atiak Health center and died while on treatment. 5 cases were reported on the 11th week all of which are epidemiologically linked to the index case (all in the same area of the camp in very close house holds.) It was noted that few days before the child develops the symptom there was a ceremony of funeral rights in which occasion there were people from Ajumani and Southern Sudan.

Two community deaths were reported; one at an age of greater than 70 on 10th March 2007 and a second one on 14th March 2007 who was traveling from South Sudan to Ajuamni. The funeral was held in Bibia. It is very difficult to verify if the death was actually due to meningitis and hence not included in the analysis.

The graphs below summarize the number of cases by epidemiological week, attack rates and case fatality rates. One case was reportedly admitted in Arinagapi HC in Ajumani district. Even though we don't have detailed information the case was included in the analysis. There are some concerns also on the cases who are reportedly admitted in Ajumani Hospital





Measures taken

The disease surveillance has been stepped up, training of health workers has been carried out. Sensitization of the community through the VHTs and Radio messages is going on. Preparation is made to establish a treatment center in Bibia in case the number of cases continues to rise. The school was temporarily closed for few days and re-opened after no cases were reported for more than 3 consecutive days. However the Health center is making frequent visits to the school in order to make appropriate decisions incase the outbreak continues.

Recommendations

- Training/sensitization of VHTS in Atiak sub-county.
- Maintain the surveillance
- Erect a tent to serve as treatment center incase number of cases continues to rise.
- Conduct frequent supervision