recommended for Marine and Navy personnel, only eight of the 15 Marines with vivax and ovale malaria had completed terminal prophylaxis. Prophylaxis was not supervised after returning to the United States and compliance was reportedly low. On May 21, 1993, the Office of the Surgeon General of the Army mandated primaquine as part of the terminal prophylactic regimen for troops returning from Somalia.

The probability of mosquito-borne transmission of malaria in the United States as a consequence of the return of these military personnel is considered low. From 1966 through 1972, four episodes of transmission in the United States, resulting in nine cases of malaria, were identified in association with the 13,843 military personnel subsequently diagnosed with vivax malaria in the United States after returning from Vietnam.

Prompt recognition and treatment of malaria is the most important approach for preventing introduction of malaria in the United States. The clinical presentation is often milder for patients who have continued taking prophylaxis or who have recently discontinued prophylaxis, compared with those patients who have not had any prophylaxis. Malaria infection can be excluded only after microscopic examination of serial thick and thin blood smears over a 72-hour period. Many of the cases of malaria described in this report by the CDC were characterized by a low density of parasitemia that was diagnosed only on thick smears. Physicians should report confirmed cases of malaria to their local health department and to the appropriate military medical authorities.

FROM: Malaria among U.S. military personnel returning from Somalia, 1993. ***MMWR*** 1993;42:524-***526.***

AIDS-Related Claims Increase by $100 Million

An estimated $1.4 billion in AID&elated health and life insurance claims was paid by U.S. insurance companies in 1992, about $100 million more than in 1991, two insurance associations recently reported. These findings were from the seventh annual survey conducted by the American Council of Life Insurance and the Health Insurance Association of America. Individual accident and health claims remained the same as in 1991. This may have been related to improved medical management and better case management by insurers. Officials for the two associations said the survey may underestimate the AID&-elated claims because some claims may not describe treatment as being AIDS-related.

WHO Estimates 13 Million HIV-Positive Women by the Year 2000

Speaking at the opening of the Second International Conference on HIV in Children and Mothers on September 7, 1993, in Edinburgh, Scotland, Dr. Michael Merson, Executive Director of the World Health Organization (WHO), said that by the year 2000, more than 13 million women will have been infected with HIV and about 4 million of them will have died. Merson outlined three primary reasons for the growth in HIV infection among women.

First, women are biologically more vulnerable. As the receptive partner, women have a larger mucosal surface exposed during intercourse. Moreover, semen contains a far higher concentration of HIV than vaginal fluid. Hence, women run a greater risk of contracting HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Second, women are epidemiologically more vulnerable because they tend to marry or have sex with older men who have had more sexual partners and are more likely to be infected. Also, women in developing countries frequently require a blood transfusion during childbirth because of anemia or hemorrhage.

Third, women are socially more vulnerable because traditional norms and sexual subordination create an unfavorable atmosphere for AIDS prevention. This environment makes it difficult or impossible for women to protect themselves from sexual transmission through mutual fidelity or condom use.

In industrialized countries, transmission is still often through homosexual contact or injecting drug use, but there is an ominous rise in heterosexual transmission. In developing countries, heterosexual transmission has been predominant from the outset. In sub-Saharan Africa, women becoming infected with HIV now outnumber men 6 to 5, and the number of infected women continues to rise.

Merson concludes that "women face extra challenges in protecting themselves and their children from HIV infection, and prevention will take an alliance of men and women working together in a spirit of mutual respect."

Additional news items in this issue: ***OSHA Issues Guidelines for Enforcement of TB Protection Requirements*** (page 628), ***CDC Publishes Revised Guidelines for Preventing Transmission of Tuberculosis*** (page 641), ***International Conference on the Prevention of Infection*** (page 645).

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