

Abstract Example

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TRAVELLING FOR WORK – SEEKING ADVICE IN SOUTH AFRICA

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Introduction

Sub Saharan Africa, a very high risk destination for travelers, is an important destination for South African workers. The concomitant occupational exposure to infectious diseases raises concern about the adequate risk-related preparation of business travelers, particularly those moving to remote areas. Occupational health practitioners in South Africa are concerned about expatriates whose 'last-minute' consultation pattern may preclude adequate disease prevention and appropriate preparation for travel. The South African Society of Travel Medicine established a national sentinel surveillance system and, with the National Institute for Occupational Health, investigated the pre-travel consultation patterns in business travelers.

Methods

A retrospective study was conducted on records of 20 000 travelers attending 24 sentinel general and travel medicine practices in main South African centers from January 2005 to December 2006. Reason for travel, destination, and the time between consultation and departure were collated. Data were analyzed using STATA.

Results

Business travelers comprised 42% of the travelers consulting clinics and had a mean 'consultation to departure' period of 15.2 days. Over half the business travelers (54%) consult less than a week before departure, while 92% consult less than a month before departure. Other countries in Africa are the destination for 73% of business travelers.

Conclusions

Business travelers comprised 42% of the travelers consulting clinics and had a mean 'consultation to departure' period of 15.2 days. Over half the business travelers (54%) consult less than a week before departure, while 92% consult less than a month before departure. Other countries in Africa are the destination for 73% of business travelers.