

中文題目：恙蟲病、斑疹傷寒及 Q 熱在老年人的臨床特徵：凝血酶原時間的延長是老年族群發生嚴重併發症的預測因子

英文題目：Characteristics of scrub typhus, murine typhus, and Q fever among elderly patients: prolonged prothrombin time as a predictor for severity

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Background: The clinical manifestations of scrub typhus, murine typhus and acute Q fever in the elderly are not clear.

Method: We conducted a retrospective study to identify the characteristics of the elderly aged ≥ 65 years with a comparison group aged 18 - 64 years among patients with scrub typhus, murine typhus, or acute Q fever who were serologically confirmed at three hospitals in Taiwan during 2002-2011.

Results: Among 441 cases, including 187 cases of scrub typhus, 166 acute Q fever, and 88 murine typhus, 68 (15.4%) cases were elderly patients. The elderly had a higher severe complication rate (10.3% vs. 3.5%, $p=0.022$), but did not have a significantly higher mortality rate (1.47% vs. 0.54%, $p=0.396$). Compared with those without severe complications, we found the elderly ($p=0.022$), dyspnea ($p=0.006$), less relative bradycardia ($p=0.004$), less febrile illness ($p=0.004$), prolonged prothrombin time (PT) ($p=0.002$), higher levels of initial C-reactive protein ($p=0.039$), blood leukocyte counts ($p=0.01$), and lower platelet counts ($p=0.012$) are significantly associated with severe complications. Only prolonged prothrombin time was associated with severe complications in multivariate analysis ($p=0.018$, CI 95% 0.01-0.66). Among clinical symptoms and laboratory data, multivariate analysis

revealed chills was less frequently occurred in the elderly ($p=0.012$, 95% confidence interval [CI]: 1.33-9.99).

Conclusion: The elderly cases with scrub typhus, murine typhus, or acute Q fever would be more likely to have severe complications, for which prothrombin time prolongation is an important predictor for severe complications.