

Correspondence

To the Editors

Dengue and COVID-19, overlapping epidemics in highly endemic area

Sri Lanka Journal of Child Health, 2020; **49**(4): 419

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.4038/sljch.v49i4.9286>

(Key words: COVID, dengue, epidemics)

Dear Editor,

COVID-19 is the important pandemic at present. There are several millions of patients of COVID-19 around the world. In the tropical zone, this disease might co-exist with other common endemic tropical infections. Of several tropical diseases, dengue is an important disease that is widely mentioned in an inter-relationship with COVID-19. Clinically, COVID-19 shares a common clinical spectrum with dengue and it might lead to difficulties in diagnosis¹. The co-existence between dengue and COVID-19 is also possible².

Here, the authors present the data from one of the areas with the highest incidence of dengue in Indochina, the North-Eastern region of Thailand. The Scatterplot incidence of dengue versus incidence of COVID-19 is presented in Figure 1. From correlation analysis, there is a significant correlation ($p < 0.001$, $r = 0.707$). This finding can confirm a recent report from Colombia that there are overlapping epidemics between COVID-19 and dengue². In a tropical country, children might be affected by both COVID-19 and dengue at the same time. It is recommended that the practitioner should recognize the clinical similarity between the two diseases and the possible concurrence of the two infections³.

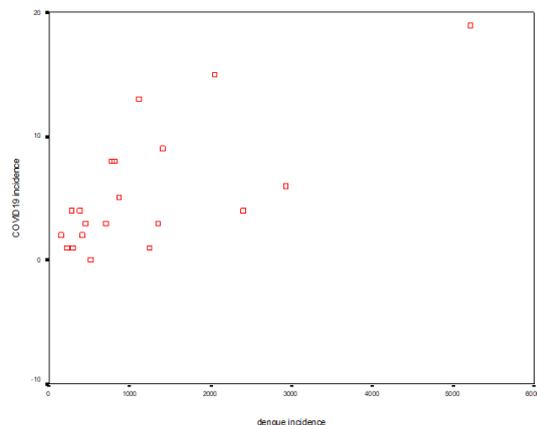


Figure 1: Scatterplot incidence of dengue versus incidence of COVID-19

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*Beuy Joob¹, Viroj Wiwanitkit²

¹Private Academic Consultant

²Honorary Professor, Dr. DY Patil University, Pune, India

*Correspondence: beuyjoob@hotmail.com



orcid.org/0000-0002-5281-0369