

YELLOW FEVER – FEBBRE GIALLA

Yellow fever is an acute, viral, infectious disease, which varies in length and gravity, caused by a virus that is transmitted to humans through the bite of the *Aedes* mosquito, particularly, the *aegypti Aedes* mosquito. These are mosquitoes that usually bite during the day, unlike those, which transmit malaria and bite during the evening hours or at night.

Yellow fever is diffuse in tropical regions of America and Africa.

HOW DOES YELLOW FEVER MANIFEST ITSELF?

After 4-6 days from the mosquito bite that transmitted the virus, the following symptoms appear: sudden fever, chills, headache, muscular pains, nausea, vomit, and jaundice (*n.b.* yellowing of the mucous membrane). In more serious cases, nose bleeds and intestinal hemorrhaging occur, and the kidneys and liver can also be damaged.

Yellow fever very often ends in death of those infected (50-60% of cases).

In addition to the cases described, less serious cases are also possible.

HOW TO PREVENT CONTRACTING YELLOW FEVER

The risk of contracting yellow fever when visiting tropical regions can be reduced by using personal protection against mosquito bites or being immunized:

- a) The first includes a series of useful precautions to follow, in order to reduce the number of mosquito bites, a risk that occurs most during the day.
In particular, if going out, wear clothing that covers the body as much as possible, avoiding dark colors or bright colors and perfume that can attract mosquitoes. The skin surface, which has remained uncovered (face, hands) should be protected by chemical substances (mosquito repellents) to keep away the mosquitoes.
Instead, inside the home, mosquito screens can be used, and doors and windows should be kept closed during the night. An insecticide should be sprayed in the areas of greater use.
- b) The vaccine against yellow fever is recommended for all those who visit high-risk regions and is mandatory in most countries.
Those travelling to countries where the immunization is mandatory (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Congo, the Ivory Coast, Gabon, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Republic of Central Africa, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ruanda, Sao Tomè, Principe, and Togo) must hold the required international immunization certificate issued by the authorized Agencies. The certificate is valid for 10 years from the tenth day after the vaccine was administered.

If you are planning a trip to your native country, you must request information at least one month before departing to know if a vaccine is mandatory or if it is, however, recommended.

In the province of Modena, the yellow fever vaccine is given, upon payment, in the Public Health Services of Modena, Mirandola, and Vignola.

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