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Chikungunya Virus: more than a mosquito bite
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Introduction

Chikungunya fever is a viral infection caused by the Chikungunya virus (CHIKV). Although seldom fatal, CHIKV causes high fever, polyarthralgia, and rash. The mosquito-borne virus has spread rapidly in the last ten years, causing over three million cases of CHIKV worldwide (Powers, 2015). The recent outbreak initiated in Africa and the islands of the Indian Ocean in 2004 has quickly spread to Asia, Europe and the Americas (CDC, 2015). According to the CDC (2015), until 2014, cases in the United States had only been linked to foreign travel outside of the Americas. As the outbreak grows, cases of local transmission in Florida and Puerto Rico have necessitated education for healthcare clinicians in prevention, detection and treatment of CHIK (Kendrick, Harvey, Foissac, Staples, & Fischer, 2014). There is currently no vaccine or cure to prevent CHIK (Weaver, Ouston, Livengood, Chen, & Stinchcomb, 2012). As patients infected with CHIKV could become a natural reservoir for CHIKV, there is an urgent need for healthcare providers to recognize the disease and treat patients.