

Revised Criteria for Diagnosis of Dengue Fever (Dengue fever during Rainy Season)

The revised criterion is being introduced by DEAG to supersede the previous diagnostic criteria during inter-epidemic period (from 27-11-2011 to date). Essentially the diagnostic criteria for suspected and probable cases will remain the same, only the criterion for confirmation of cases will be changed. Issuance of this criterion is considered essential in view of following points.

1. During any epidemic one need to make a criteria for diagnosis to minimize the false negative cases so that alert for epidemic can be generated in time.
2. This will also help in statistical analysis of the cases during epidemic.

The diagnostic criteria would be divided into 3 categories;

1. Suspected case of Dengue Fever
2. Probable case of Dengue Fever
3. Confirmed case of Dengue Fever

Following is the revised criteria for each segment.

1. Suspected Case – (Presence of 3 or more Clinical Criteria)

Clinical Criteria:

- Fever of 2 to 10 days duration (**essential criterion**) and two of the followings:
 - Headache
 - Retro orbital pain
 - Myalgia
 - Arthralgia/ severe backache/ bone pains
 - Rash
 - Bleeding manifestations (epistaxis, hematemesis, bloody stools, menorrhagia, hemoptysis)
 - Abdominal pain
 - Decreased urinary output despite adequate fluid intake
 - Irritability in infants

2. Probable Case – (Suspected Case with both Supportive Lab Evidence)

Supportive Lab Evidence:

- Thrombocytopenia
- Leukopenia

3. Confirmed Case – (Probable case with any one of the three Confirmatory Evidence)

Confirmatory evidence of viral infection would therefore, be based on:

- Detection of IgM
OR
- Detection of viral antigen (NS1 antigen in blood)
OR
- Detection of virus by PCR
OR
- Demonstration of ≥ 4 fold rise in IgG antibody titre in paired acute and convalescent serum

Note: Laboratory tests for IgM, IgG and NS-1 should be carried out by ELISA method using a kit which should cover all four strains of Dengue virus (DEN – 1, DEN-2, DEN3 and DEN- 4)

***Issued by Dengue Expert Advisory Group (Punjab)
17.08.2012***