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**Subject** PRO/AH/EDR> Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome - Panama

**HANTAVIRUS** PULMONARY SYNDROME - PANAMA  
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A ProMED-mail post

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<<http://www.isid.org>>

Date: Fri 27 Sep 2002

From: Pablo Nart <[p.nart@virgin.net](mailto:p.nart@virgin.net)>

Source: La prensa (Panama), Fri 27 Sep 2002 (Trans. by Mod.MPP) [edited]

<<http://www.prensa.com/hoy/portada/721470.html>>

Panama: Death of Second **Hantavirus** Pulmonary Syndrome Patient

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A 22-year-old patient from the community of Guanico Arriba, district of Tonosi, died as a result of **hantavirus** infection on Wed 25 Sep 2002, in the Joaquin Pablo Franco Hospital of Las Tablas. Pedro Rios, Regional Director of Health from the province of Los Santos confirmed this yesterday, pointing out that this was the second case of **hantavirus** [pulmonary syndrome] reported in the district of Tonosi in less than 10 days. He mentioned that in the preceding week there was a report of a 30-year-old patient [with **hantavirus** pulmonary syndrome] from the community of Agua Buena, part of Canas, who was in stable condition.

Hantaviruses are transmitted primarily through inhalation of small dried fresh particles contaminated with feces, urine, and/or saliva of rodents. In total, since the first identification of **hantavirus** infection in Panama in 1999, there have been 38 cases of **hantavirus** pulmonary syndrome reported, of which 7 have died.

The situation in Tonosi is worrisome, because studies from the Gorgas Memorial Institute have demonstrated an increase in the number of rodents in this district and have detected a new species of rodent that is contaminated with **hantavirus**, according to Rios.

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[The hantaviruses are a diverse and numerous group of viruses belonging to the family **\_Bunyaviridae\_**. Hantaviruses differ from other members of the **\_Bunyaviridae\_** in that they are not transmitted by arthropods. Certain species are the aetiological agents of haemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome (predominantly in the Eastern hemisphere) and others with **hantavirus** pulmonary syndrome (predominantly in the Western hemisphere).

The hosts of hantaviruses are primarily rodents, and the different **hantavirus** species are usually associated with a single rodent species. Human infection is incidental to virus maintenance and almost always a dead-end, with exception of the South American Andes virus, which has exhibited human-to-human transmission. The present report does not identify the **hantavirus** species responsible for these cases of **hantavirus** pulmonary syndrome in Panama. Previously, 2 hantaviruses have been isolated in Panama: Choclo virus (reservoir host - Oligoryzomys fulvescens) and Calabazo virus (reservoir host - Zygodontomys brevicauda); only the former has been associated with **hantavirus** pulmonary syndrome. (see :Levis et al., Journal of Infectious Diseases 177: 529-538, 1998; and Vincent et al., Virology 277:14-19, 2000). Further information on the identity of the **hantavirus** and rodent host implicated in the current outbreak would be welcomed. - Mod.CP]

[see also:

2001

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**Hantavirus** pulmonary syndrome - Panama (Los Santos) [20010311.0500](#)

2000

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**Hantavirus** pulmonary syndrome - Panama [20000226.0258](#)

**Hantavirus** pulmonary syndrome - Panama (06) [20001128.2071](#)]

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