

Travel health course and certificate

A PILOT PROJECT



This presentation

- Background
- Objective
- Educational goals
- Practical information
- Pilot at ITM Travel Clinic
- Examination and Certificate



Main risk for Mt. Kilimanjaro climbers?



Background

- European airport survey:
 - 50% of travellers to developing country: no pre-travel advice
 - If pre-travel advice: mostly from GP*
- US study: GP's with a certificate of TH: more appropriate advice°
- Belgium: no certified Travel Medicine course

*Van Herck et al. *J Travel Med.* 2004

°Kogelman et al. *J Travel Med.* 2014



Objective of the course

Increase the quality of pre-travel health advice given by GP's



Educational goals

- Be accustomed with Wanda
- Know the most important travel health risks
- Be able to assess individual risk
- Advice accordingly
- Know when to refer to a specialized centre



Practical

- February-July 2019: Pilot at ITM
- March – June 2020: interactive course based on casuistry
 - 20-25 participants
 - 6 lessons 19.30 -22.00h
 - some e-learning modules
- June 2020: Examination
- Supported by the Flemish Community



Pilot at ITM Travel Clinic

- No lessons
- 6 case discussion sessions to:
 - Increase quality of casuistry
 - Identify pain points
 - Refine and clarify guidelines
 - Standardize the advice received at ITM



Content discussions

- Each case
 - Most important health risks for this traveller?
 - Which vaccines indicated?
 - Which other preventive measures indicated?
 - Any other advice or recommendations?



Basic casuistry per session

1. Healthy tourist 1 week to Cuba
2. Healthy tourist 3 weeks to Peru
3. Backpacker 1 month to Asia
4. VFR 6 weeks to Africa
5. Traveller with additional considerations (*pregnant, child, ...*)
6. Fever or diarrhea after return



Topics discussed in first session

1. Basic vaccinations
2. Hepatitis A and B vaccination
3. Dengue, Chikungunya, Zika
4. Travelers diarrhea
5. Sexual risk
6. Sun protection
7. Swimming and diving
8. Traffic accidents
9. Travel pharmacy
10. Travel insurance



Examination and certificate

- “Open book” examination based on casuistry
- Certificate for passing the examination
- Still to be discussed:
 - Registration on ITM website?
 - Certificate Renewal after 5 years?
 - Certificate obliged for GP’s working in the ITM Travel Clinic?



Thank you for your attention!





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