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| --- | --- |
| Logo AGES | |
| Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever | |
|  |  |
| 01.06.2025 06:51 Uhr | |

**Crimean-Congo
haemorrhagic
fever**

**Crimean-Congo
hemorrhagic
fever
orthonairovirus
(CCHFV)**

Last
change:
22.10.2024

**Profile**

Crimean-Congo
fever
is
a
viral
disease
that
can
be
fatal.
The
viruses
are
mainly
transmitted
by
Hyalomma
ticks.
Hyalomma
ticks
are
originally
native
to
warmer
regions
of
southeastern
Europe
and
Asia,
and
adult
specimens
have
also
been
found
in
Austria
for
several
years.

**Occurrence**

Crimean-Congo
fever
occurs
in
southeastern
Europe,
the
Middle
East,
and
many
countries
in
Asia
and
Africa

**Pathogen
reservoir**

Hosts
can
be
migratory
birds
and
domestic
and
wild
animals,
such
as
cows,
sheep,
camels
or
goats

**Infection
route**

Transmission
to
humans
occurs
through
tick
bites
or
through
direct
contact
with
blood
or
meat
from
infected
animals
and
after
contact
with
blood
or
tissue
from
infected
patients.
Nosocomial
infections
(infections
in
hospitals
or
care
facilities)
can
also
lead
to
outbreaks
if
hygiene
is
poor.

**Incubation
period**

The
incubation
period
varies
between
two
and
five
days
for
tick-borne
transmission
and
five
to
nine
days
for
hospital
transmission
(nosocomial
infection)

**Symptomatology**

More
than
80%
of
cases
are
asymptomatic.
The
infection
can
lead
to
high
fever,
chills,
severe
headache,
muscle
and
joint
pain,
vomiting
and
diarrhea.
General
bleeding
can
cause
life-threatening
complications

**Therapy**

The
therapy
exclusively
combats
the
symptoms.
In
severe
cases,
the
primary
objective
is
to
safeguard
vital
functions.
The
mortality
rate
is
between
two
and
50
percent,
depending
on
the
strain
of
the
virus
and
the
supply
situation.

**Prevention**

A
vaccine
is
currently
not
available.
In
affected
areas,
animal
contact
should
be
avoided
and
[tick
bites
should
be
prevented
as
best
as
possible](en/human/disease/ticks-diseases-info#c7913).

**Situation
in
Austria**

Human
diseases
with
source
of
infection
in
Austria
have
never
been
documented
so
far.
In
2018,
an
adult
Hylomma
tick
was
found
near
Melk.
Although
it
could
be
ruled
out
that
this
specimen
carried
Crimean
Congo
virus,
other
pathogens
were
found.

**Specialized
information**

Over
30
Hyalomma
species
have
been
identified
as
vectors.
Hyalomma
ticks
are
originally
native
to
warmer
regions
of
southeastern
Europe
and
Asia
and
are
mostly
unable
to
finish
developing
in
colder
climates.
However,
adult
specimens
have
also
been
found
in
Austria
for
several
years.

Ticks
change
hosts
twice
in
their
lifetime.
As
larvae
and
nymphs
they
feed
on
one
host,
as
adults
on
another.
As
the
climate
warms,
it
becomes
more
likely
that
nymphs
introduced
via
migratory
birds
will
develop
into
adults.
This
also
increases
the
risk
of
spreading
new
diseases,
such
as
Crimean-Congo
fever.

[Ministry
of
Health:
Information
for
healthcare
professionals](https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Uebertragbare-Krankheiten/Infektionskrankheiten-A-Z/Krim-Kongo-Fieber---virales-haemorrhagisches-Fieber.html)

**Diagnostic**

The
virus
is
detected
by
PCR.

[Ministry
of
Health:
List
of
national
reference
centers/laboratories](https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Gesundheit/Uebertragbare-Krankheiten/Statistiken-und-Fallzahlen.html)