

Monkeypox: the new global threat?

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ABSTRACT

Summary: Monkeypox is a zoonotic disease caused by an orthopoxvirus, resulting in a smallpox-like illness in humans. This virus was first detected in monkeys in a Danish laboratory in the year 1958. Monkeypox disease is endemic and usually limited to West and Central Africa. However, its epidemiology has been reported to be changing and evolving in the last few years with cases being reported in other countries beyond Africa. Recently, multiple cases of monkeypox have been identified and reported to the World Health Organization (WHO). As of June 22, there were 3308 confirmed cases of monkeypox in more than 40 countries. This session will cover the description of the epidemiology and natural history of monkeypox, provide updates on the multi-country monkeypox outbreak situation, and discuss the potential threat to global health. The concept of One Health and how this approach can be used to prevent the emergence of new and existing zoonotic diseases will also be discussed.