

1 ZOOBOTIC AND VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES

a Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever

The NICD has confirmed a third case of Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF); the previous cases were reported late in 2016 and early in 2017 respectively.

The patient is a 54-year-old farmer from Steynsrus, Free State Province. The man developed fever and headache on 23 January and epistaxis about a week later. He reported to his local general practitioner, who suspected CCHF. CCHF occurs most frequently among farmers and agricultural workers in South Africa, following the bite of an infected tick or to a lesser extent, from exposure to blood during slaughter of livestock animals. A petechial rash was noted on his lower limbs. On the basis of his clinical presentation and profound thrombocytopenia (platelet count $5 \times 10^9/L$), elevated transaminases and exposure to animals,

CCHF testing was carried out. The diagnosis of CCHF was confirmed on 1 February by positive PCR and serology (IgG 1:1000, IgM 1:100) results at the NICD. The patient made an uneventful recovery and there were no secondary cases.

Since 1981, when CCHF was first recognised in South Africa, on average 5 to 6 (range 1-15) sporadic cases have been confirmed each year.

Source: Centre for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases, NICD-NHLS; (januszp@nicd.ac.za)