

Dengue haemorrhagic fever

Diagnosis, treatment, prevention
and control

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Preface

Dengue fever, and especially the more severe manifestation dengue haemorrhagic fever, ranks highly among new and newly emerging infectious diseases in public health significance and is considered to be the most important of the arthropod-borne viral diseases. Since the early 1970s, the World Health Organization (WHO) has been actively involved in developing and promoting strategies for the treatment and control of dengue. In 1986, WHO published a guide to the diagnosis, treatment and control of dengue haemorrhagic fever which has enjoyed popularity and been internationally recognized as an authoritative reference.

In resolution WHA46.31 the Forty-sixth World Health Assembly in 1993 confirmed that dengue prevention and control should be among the priorities of WHO. Global and regional strategies emphasizing the need for effective prevention, active surveillance and outbreak preparedness have since been developed. Three WHO Regional Offices have recently issued publications on dengue: in 1993, the Regional Office for South-East Asia (SEARO) published *Monograph on dengue/dengue haemorrhagic fever*; in 1994, the Regional Office for the Americas (PAHO) published *Dengue and dengue hemorrhagic fever in the Americas: guidelines for prevention and control*; and in 1995, the Regional Office for the Western Pacific (WPRO) published *Guidelines for dengue surveillance and mosquito control*.

This second edition of the 1986 book has been produced to make widely available to health practitioners, laboratory personnel, those involved in vector-control efforts and public health officials a concise publication of worldwide relevance containing practical information about dengue and dengue haemorrhagic fever. It offers in-depth, proven and easy-to-follow recommendations for the diagnosis and treatment of dengue and dengue haemorrhagic fever and provides a global perspective on the history, prevention, surveillance and control of dengue. While retaining key features of the original, the present edition furnishes some new information, particularly with respect to methods of laboratory diagnosis and vector surveillance and control.

Like the WHO regional publications, this book has benefited from the review of numerous experts within and outside WHO, as well as from the work of several international meetings addressing aspects of the global dengue problem. In particular, Dr Natth Bhamarapravati, Dr Duane Gubler, Dr Scott

Preface

Halstead, Dr Bruce Innis, Dr Suchitra Nimmanitya and Dr David Vaughn should be acknowledged for their kind assistance. It is hoped this publication will contribute to prevention and control of the morbidity and mortality due to dengue, and continue to serve as an authoritative reference for workers and researchers in the field.