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### First Cases of Sars-cov-2 Reinfection Coinciding with the Covid-19 Second Wave, Benin City, Nigeria

#### *Premiers Cas De Réinfection Par Sars-Cov-2 Coïncidant Avec La Deuxième Vague De Covid-19, Benin City, Nigeria*

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#### ABSTRACT

**BACKGROUND:** Reinfection with severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) has important public health implications pertaining to herd immunity and durability of protection from vaccines. A small but growing number of cases have been reported globally but none from Africa. This is due, in part, to adherence to definitions based on genetic sequencing, the capabilities of which are in short supply on the continent.

**METHODS:** Based on epidemiological and clinical parameters, we report the first two cases of SARS-CoV-2 reinfection from a Nigerian tertiary hospital managing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) patients.

**RESULT:** Two cases of SARS-CoV-2 reinfection were seen in December, 2020 and January, 2021. Both were males associated with a healthcare setting and aged 37 and 38 years respectively. The number of days between the first infection and the second ranged from 160-196 days. Symptoms ranged from mild to moderate and they recovered without sequelae.

**CONCLUSION:** Public health action, including risk communication and reinfection surveillance backed by genomic sequencing, is advocated. **WAJM 2022; 39(8): 777-780.**

**KEYWORDS:** COVID-19; SARS-CoV-2; Reinfection; Nigeria; Pandemic.

#### RÉSUMÉ

**CONTEXTE:** La réinfection par le coronavirus 2 du syndrome respiratoire aigu sévère (SRAS-CoV-2) a des implications importantes pour la santé publique en ce qui concerne l'immunité du troupeau et la durabilité de la protection contre les vaccins. Un nombre petit mais croissant de cas a été signalé dans le monde, mais aucun en Afrique. Cela est dû, en partie, au respect des définitions basées sur le séquençage génétique, dont les capacités sont rares sur le continent.

**MÉTHODES:** Sur la base de paramètres épidémiologiques et cliniques, nous rapportons les deux premiers cas de réinfection par le SRAS-CoV-2 d'un hôpital tertiaire nigérian prenant en charge des patients atteints de la maladie à coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19).

**RÉSULTAT:** Deux cas de réinfection par le SRAS-CoV-2 ont été observés en décembre 2020 et janvier 2021. Tous deux étaient des hommes associés à un établissement de soins de santé et âgés respectivement de 37 et 38 ans. Le nombre de jours entre la première infection et la seconde variait de 160 à 196 jours. Les symptômes variaient de légers à modérés et ils se sont rétablis sans séquelles.

**CONCLUSION:** Une action de santé publique, y compris la communication des risques et la surveillance des réinfections appuyées par le séquençage génomique, est préconisée. **WAJM 2022; 39(8): 777-780.**

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**MOTS CLÉS:** COVID-19; SRAS-CoV-2; Réinfection; Nigeria; Pandémie

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