

JOURNAL-BASED LEARNING EXERCISES



Each article's contents should be read, researched and understood, and you should then come to a decision on each question. The pass mark is 17 out of 20 questions answered correctly. JBL exercises may be completed at any time until the published deadline date. Please select your choice of correct answers and complete the exercises online at: www.ibms.org/cpd/jbl

DEADLINE WEDNESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2018

West Nile surveillance in Europe: moving towards an integrated animal-human-vector approach. Gossner CM, Marrama L, Carson M <i>et al.</i> <i>Euro Surveill</i> 2017; 22 (18): pii: 30526. doi: 10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2017.22.18.30526. Assessment No: 060618		Pathology networks. See: improvement.nhs.uk/resources/pathology-networks , including embedded PDF document (improvement.nhs.uk/documents/1658/Consolidation_Networks_CEO_Letter_RE11.pdf). Assessment No: 060918	
01	West Nile virus can be transmitted vertically.	01	To take consolidation forwards there will be a toolkit and support activities.
02	Most West Nile virus infections in birds are asymptomatic.	02	All hospitals will still have local laboratories.
03	West Nile fever in humans is a notifiable disease in all countries of the UK.	03	London pathology services will be in four networks
04	The first cases of local transmission in Austria were diagnosed using molecular diagnostic methods.	04	The Midlands and East 7 will break even, making no savings.
05	All suspected equine West Nile fever cases in the UK must be reported to the Animal and Plant Health Agency.	05	The body looking at getting better deals out of services is NHSI.
06	Around a quarter of horses infected with West Nile virus display neurological symptoms.	06	Future efficiency savings could be as high as £2.2billion.
07	Data for all five countries considered in the paper show that the highest number of infections in horses was recorded in 2013 in all cases.	07	The data collected allow for a comparison overall, regional and local performance on an annual recurrent basis.
08	In Greece, mosquitoes are actively monitored for West Nile virus carriage between June and October.	08	Network South 2 will make proportionally the highest savings.
09	During 2010 and 2015, 55 times more birds were tested for West Nile virus infection in the UK than in France.	09	It is deemed unlikely that staff career opportunities will be improved under the new plans.
10	The mosquito <i>Culex modestus</i> , which can act as a vector for West Nile virus, has been identified in the UK in the 21st century.	10	Laboratories are included in the networks even if outsourced.
11	Approximately 1% of the birds surveyed for West Nile virus in Italy had evidence of infection with the virus.	11	The Isle of Man, Channel Islands and Isle of Wight are not included.
12	Outbreaks of West Nile encephalomyelitis in European Union countries should be reported to the European Commission and the World Organization for Animal Health.	12	Other than Midlands and East 7, all networks are expected to make savings of at least 3%.
13	Published studies have demonstrated West Nile virus RNA in migratory wild birds in the UK.	13	NHSI has mandated the establishment of 29 pathology networks in the United Kingdom.
14	In Austria, surveillance of birds for West Nile virus is conducted in birds sampled for avian influenza infection.	14	We can be fully confident that all savings will be achieved.
15	Inactivated and recombinant vaccines are available and can be used to prevent West Nile disease in humans.	15	NHSI is keen to see patient engagement in this process, which is designed for patient benefit as well as generating savings.
16	There is increased vigilance for human cases of neuroinvasive West Nile fever in the Mediterranean region of France during the West Nile season.	16	North 1, North 5 and Midlands and East 2 all have two hubs.
17	Neurological disease in horses associated with West Nile fever infection is notifiable across the European Union.	17	Centralising pathology services will mean patients will probably have to travel further for services.
18	There is no risk of transmission of West Nile virus from asymptomatic infection in blood or tissue donors.	18	According to NHSI figures, the average cost of a pathology test is £1.96.
19	Between 2009 and 2015 there were 13 confirmed cases of West Nile fever in humans in Austria.	19	The changes aim to cover better screening and new genetic testing.
20	Serological surveillance for antibodies to West Nile virus in horses is always useful in identifying places and times where humans would be at risk from the infection.	20	Networks are aimed at bringing together clinical expertise.
REFLECTIVE LEARNING			
01	Discuss whether serological testing for anti-West Nile virus antibody is suitable for screening blood and tissue from asymptomatic donors.	01	If you were to undertake this exercise, what criteria would you use for deciding the number and location of hubs and networks, taking into account emergency and contingency planning?
02	Evaluate the risk to human health from other vector-borne viruses emerging in Europe.	02	What would be the major hurdles that need to be overcome in order to maximise efficiencies and patient benefits?