

## A Global Effort to Understand the Recent Monkeypox Outbreak

**Zhou Zhong\***

Lumicks, USA

**\*Corresponding Author:** Zhou Zhong, Lumicks, USA.

**Received:** July 26, 2022; **Published:** July 29, 2022

In May 2022, an outbreak of Monkeypox was reported in the UK [1]. Soon after, more cases were confirmed worldwide. Monkeypox, a zoonotic DNA virus in the genus *Orthopoxvirus* from the *Poxviridae* family, is endemic previously only within western and central Africa. With the relaxed travel restrictions and possibly the discontinuation of smallpox (from the same genus) vaccination, the number of Monkeypox confirmed cases grows quickly.

It has been more than 60 years since the first case of Monkeypox was reported in 1958 from sick monkeys in Copenhagen [2]. However, until today, little is known about its transmission route, risk factors, and outcomes. To have a better understanding of this virus, a global collaborative case series were examined and reported by an international collaborative group of clinicians [3].

In this publication, the authors reported 528 infected cases from 16 countries across 4 WHO regions (Americas, Europe, Western Pacific, and Eastern Mediterranean) between April and June 2022. 98% of the cases were gay or bisexual men. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) confirmed Monkeypox DNA in 29 out of the 32 persons' seminal fluid. 109 of 377 cases (29%) were found to be concomitant sexually transmitted infections. Together, this evidence strongly indicates that Monkeypox can be transmitted by sexual activities, especially among gay or bisexual men.

Regarding the symptoms, most of the patients presented with rash, anogenital lesions and mucosal lesions, usually coupled with fever, lethargy, myalgia, and headache. Only a small fraction (13%) of patients needed to be hospitalized for pain management, and no death was reported.

As the COVID pandemic is thought to be over soon, the growing cases of Monkeypox infection just remind us again - there could be another one. Just like the authors say, "Viruses know no borders". This work showcases the significance of global collaboration when it comes to another potential rising viral pandemic. With more information and better knowledge, our researchers, clinicians and health professionals can be better equipped to fight the outbreak.

### Bibliography

1. World Health Organization. Disease Outbreak News; Multi-country monkeypox outbreak in non-endemic countries (2022).
2. Parker S and Buller RM. "A review of experimental and natural infections of animals with monkeypox virus between 1958 and 2012". *Future Virology* 8.2 (2013): 129-157.
3. Thornhill JP, et al. "Monkeypox Virus Infection in Humans across 16 Countries - April-June 2022". *The New England Journal of Medicine* (2022).

**Volume 18 Issue 8 August 2022**

**©All rights reserved by Zhou Zhong.**