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PRESENCE OF ANTIBODIES TO TICK BORNE ENCEPHALITIS VIRUS IN CHILDREN WITH ARTHRITIS IN TURKEY

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Tick borne encephalitis virus (TBEV) is mainly transmitted by ticks and infects vertebrated animals and people causing fever and occasional neurological disorders. The aim of this study was to investigate antibodies to TBEV in children with arthritis. For this, 90 sera were collected from children showing fever and/or symptoms of arthritis. Sera was analysed by ELISA kits (Euroimmun) for the presence of IgM and IgG antibodies to TBEV. IgM antibodies to TBEV were detected in 3 children between the age of 3-7 years old. No IgG antibodies to TBEV were detected. Children who had antibodies to TBEV had fever and arthritis but no neurological disorders. Results of this study indicate that children are exposed to TBEV infection in Turkey and it is important to follow up these children with arthritis for neurological disorders.