
OUTBREAK

Ross River virus in Western Australia

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An outbreak of Ross River virus is currently in progress in coastal regions of the south-west of Western Australia. Over 544 serologically confirmed cases had been reported by late February 1996. The first cases were

reported for October 1995. Fifteen cases were reported with dates of onset in November, followed by 70 in December, 356 in January and 106 (to date) in February 1996. The worst affected areas include coastal towns south of Perth. By January a number of cases had also been reported from Perth, although case follow-ups are likely to show that some of these infections were acquired further south during the Christmas holiday season.