

Ailment spurt in city after rainfall

AGE CORRESPONDENT
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After heavy rainfall in the city earlier this week, doctors have reported a spike in monsoon-related ailments. Doctors are particularly seeing rise in cases of diabetic-foot infection, diarrhoea, typhoid, jaundice, leptospirosis, bronchial asthma and chronic airway disease. Some 90 to 100 patients are being registered with general physicians everyday.

"There are long queues of patients suffering from viral fever, common cold, gastroenteritis, hepatitis A, typhoid and leptospirosis. More than 90 patients have been visiting us everyday, with most of the patients in the emergency ward afflicted with infectious diseases. There is little awareness among people regarding such diseases,"

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● **Eight people have contracted cholera while a total of 3,000 cases of fever and cough were registered in July**

said Dr Behram Pardiwalla, consultant of Internal Medicine at Wockhardt Hospital, Mumbai Central.

Dr Pardiwalla, added that many viral infections such as hantavirus, along with the H1N1

influenza virus, were emerging in the city.

Swine flu had affected some 184 patients in July with four succumbing to the infection. A total of eight people have contracted cholera while a total of 3,000 cases of fever and cough were registered in the BMC hospitals in the month of July.

Doctors are also seeing rise in cases of upper respiratory tract infections, cold, sinusitis, and ear

infections. Dr Agneesh Patail, ENT surgeon from Nanavati Hospital, said that in the last few weeks, he had received several patients with ear infections and viral respiratory infection. "The infection inside the throat turns into bacterial infection and then affects the ears," said Dr Patail.

Doctors warn that if the weather in the last 15 days is taken into consideration, the city wit-

nessed a great difference between the minimum and maximum temperatures. This fluctuation of temperature may be responsible for the spread of viruses.

Talking about the changes in the climatic conditions, Dr Nitin Shah, consultant paediatrician at PD Hinduja Hospital said, "This year, the monsoon has been 'notorious' for causing infectious diseases among children and adults. Among children, it causes viral fever, common cold, skin and eye infections, which can further lead to protein loss and malnutrition."

He further added that the children, elderly, patients of uncontrolled diabetics, those on immune suppressive medicines and cancer patients are particularly vulnerable to such infections.