



MILANO
30/09-01/10/2026



AULA MAGNA
Università degli Studi di Milano

4° CONVEGNO NAZIONALE LE GIORNATE DI **INFETTIVOLOGIA PEDIATRICA**

Chair Vania Giacomet



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**Are Italian pediatricians
prepared for emerging
arboviral infections?**

Results of a nationwide survey



G. Sturniolo

Pediatra e dottoranda di ricerca in Malattie infettive pediatriche
Università degli Studi di Padova

Why focus on pediatric care?



Article

West Nile Virus Infection: A Cross-Sectional Study on Italian Medical Professionals during Summer Season 2022

Matteo Riccò ^{1,*}, Alessandro Zaniboni ², Elia Satta ², Silvia Ranzieri ², Milena Pia Cerviere ³, Federico Marchesi ² and Simona Peruzzi ⁴

Italian medical professionals, West Nile virus: knowledge gaps and heterogeneous risk perception



Attitudes and knowledge of the adult population on arboviral diseases

FABIANA NUCCETELLI¹, VALERIA GABELLONE¹, SARA CIAMPINI², LUIGI ROBERTO BIASIO³, PIER LUIGI LOPALCO¹

¹ Department of Experimental Medicine, University of Salento, Lecce, Italy;

² UOC-Vaccination and international Centre Vaccination, Rome, Italy; ³ Scientific Committee Giovanni Lorenzini Foundation, Milan, Italy

Adults at a Rome vaccination clinic: awareness of arboviral diseases in the general population



Preparedness of Local Institutions for Dengue and Other Arboviral Threats: A Cross-Sectional Study of Italian Municipalities

Massimiliano De Paolis ¹, Daniele Di Giovanni ^{2,*}, Mariachiara Carestia ², Francesca Michienzi ¹, Alberto Perra ³ and Alessio Abbondanzieri ¹

ASL Roma 5 local study in 2026 (GPs, pediatricians, municipal authorities): mainly dengue and outbreak preparedness

THE GAP

No nationwide study has specifically assessed knowledge, perceptions and educational needs among physicians working in pediatric care.

Aim: to fill this gap with a national survey of pediatric physicians in Italy.

Methods: a nationwide online survey



Design

Nationwide cross-sectional online survey, July–November 2025



Participants

Physicians in pediatric care:
residents, hospital and primary care pediatricians, pediatric infectious
diseases (ID) specialists



Instrument

Anonymous self administered REDCap questionnaire,
disseminated through SITIP and peer-to-peer



Measures

Knowledge score (0–57, six domains)
Perception score (7 Likert items)
Educational needs

Sample

215 survey records



55 incomplete excluded



160 analysed

Welch's t-test / ANOVA, Spearman correlation,
multivariable linear regression

Respondent profile & TRAINING GAP

Participant Characteristics (N = 160)

- Sex: 72.5% Female (116/160)
- Age Distribution: 81.3% aged 20–40 years (20–30: 32.5%, 31–40: 48.8%)
- Professional Roles:
 - Pediatric Residents: 53.1% (85/160)
 - Hospital Pediatricians: 26.9% (43/160)
 - Pediatric ID Specialists: 11.9% (19/160)
 - Primary Care Pediatricians (PLS): 8.1% (13/160)
- Experience: 58.8% <5 years in pediatric clinical practice
- Geography: 70.6% Northern Italy (Veneto 44.4%), 16.9% Central, 12.5% South/Islands

Substantial Training Deficit

41.9%

Reported prior training on arboviral infections (67/160)

Time Elapsed Since Most Recent Training (n = 67):

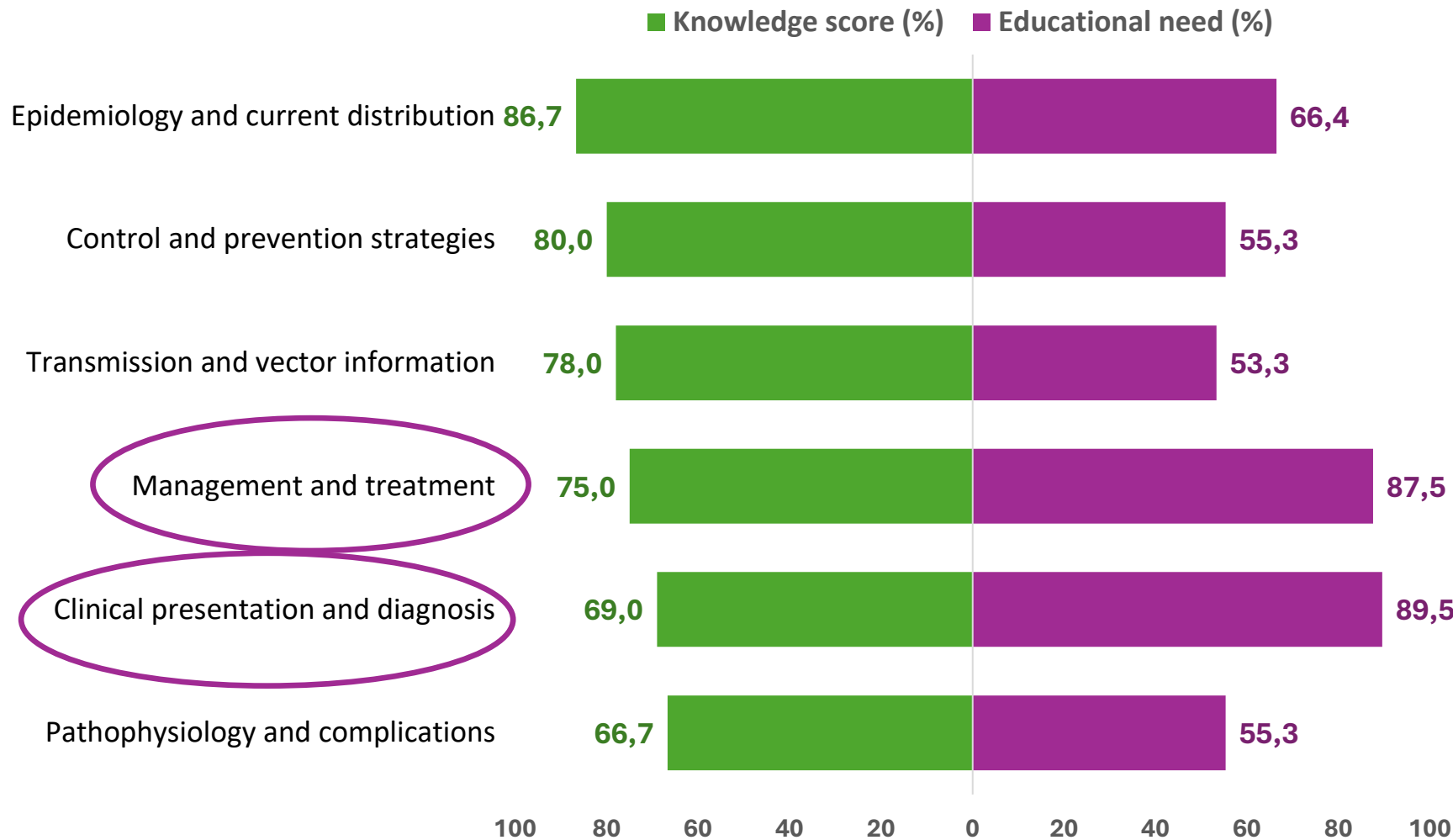
- >1 year ago: 59.7% (40/67) — Majority has outdated training
- Within last months: 31.3% (21/67)
- 1–2 weeks ago: 4.5% (3/67)
- Past week: 4.5% (3/67)



Key Takeaway:

Over 58% of surveyed pediatric clinicians have NEVER received formal training on arboviruses, and among those trained, 60% haven't updated in >1 year.

Knowledge gaps map & educational demand



OVERALL

● 42.0/57 mean knowledge score

● 95.0% wanted further training

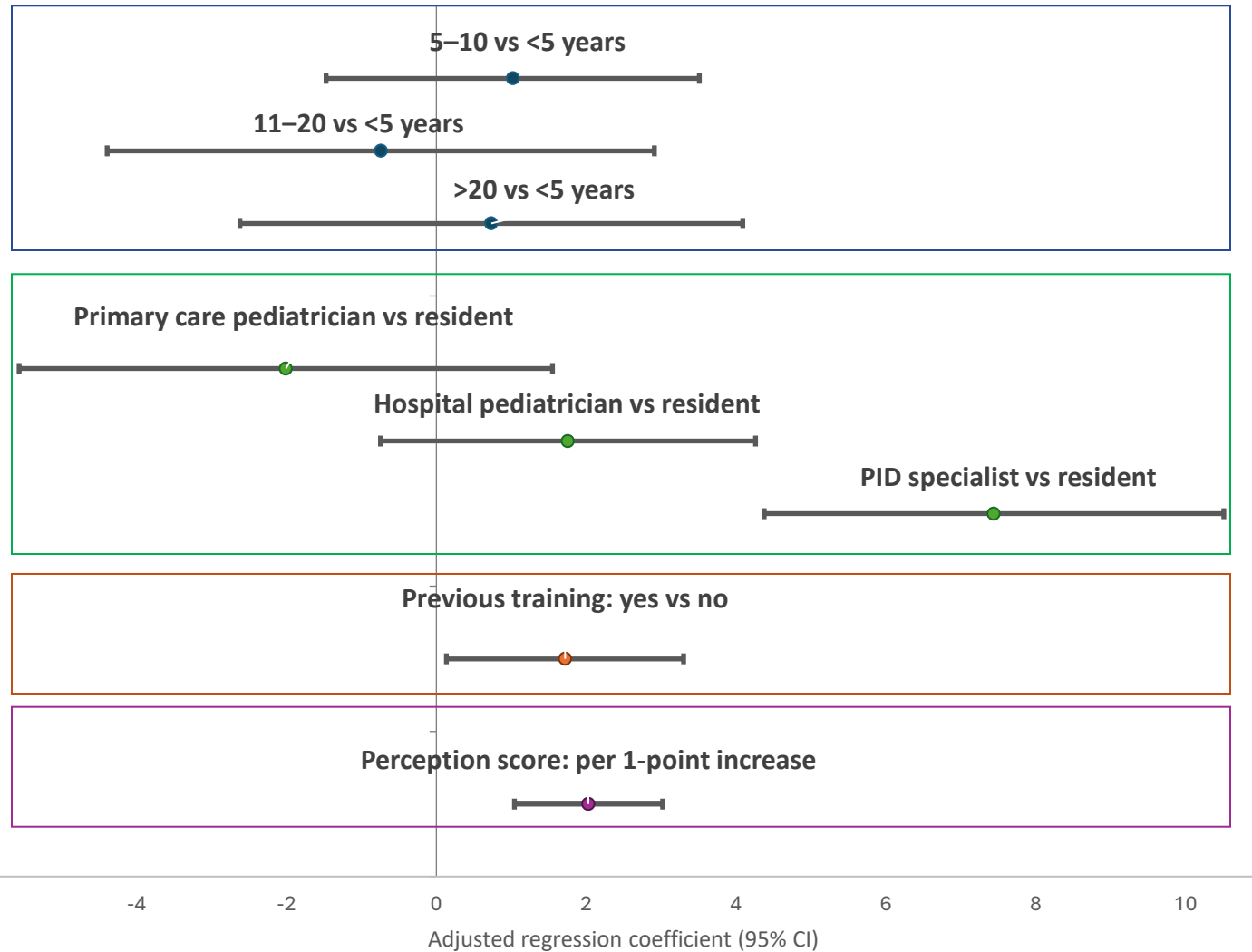
Green = median knowledge score per domain (0–100)

Purple = % of interested respondents requesting that topic

KEY MESSAGE

The two weakest domains - clinical presentation & diagnosis and management & treatment - are also the two most requested for training.

Training and role mattered more than seniority



ADJUSTED ASSOCIATIONS WITH KNOWLEDGE

PID specialist vs resident **+7.44**
95% CI 4.38–10.51

Previous arbovirus training **+1.72**
95% CI 0.13–3.30

Perception score, per +1 point **+2.03**
95% CI 1.04–3.02

Years of pediatric experience **n.s.**
p = 0.707



Cross-sectional design: associations, not causation

Perceptions of arboviral infections



Key perception gaps

High perceived exposure, but low perceived disease risk.

Participants frequently reported high personal exposure to mosquito/tick bites, while perceived personal risk of acquiring a vector-borne disease remained comparatively low.

Mosquito bites receive limited attention in clinical history.

More than half of participants (53.8%) rated their attention to mosquito bites during medical history taking as low (1–2/5), while only 21.9% selected 4–5/5.

Public health relevance was generally rated as moderate.

Most responses clustered at 2–3/5, with only 22.5% rating arboviral infections as highly relevant (4–5/5).

Conclusions



Knowledge was generally good, but uneven

Epidemiology and prevention were stronger areas, while clinical presentation/diagnosis and pathophysiology showed greater gaps.



Training and specialization were associated with higher knowledge

PID specialists and participants with previous arbovirus training had higher knowledge scores, whereas years of pediatric clinical experience were not independently associated.



Educational demand is very high

Only 41.9% had received prior training on arboviral infections, yet 95.0% wanted further education on the topic. Main priorities: clinical presentation/diagnosis and management/treatment.

Take-home message: targeted, practical training may help strengthen clinical recognition and management of arboviral infections in pediatric practice.

Limitations: voluntary, network-based recruitment (possible selection bias) · Northern Italy/Veneto and residents over-represented · response rate not calculable · cross-sectional design (associations, not causation)



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Grazie per l'attenzione



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