Clinical Management of Yellow Fever
Yellow Fever

- Acute viral infection
- Transmitted by mosquitoes
- Endemic and epidemic in Africa
- High CFR in classic yellow fever
- No curative medical treatment
- Preventable by vaccination
Clinical Yellow Fever

- No protracted carrier stage
- No direct person to person contact
- 3-6 day incubation period
- Patient is viremic 3-6 days after onset of fever
- Wide clinical spectrum of disease
- Easily confused with other causes of fever
Spectrum of Clinical Illness

- **Undifferentiated febrile illness**
  - resembles many other fevers

- **Classic Yellow Fever**
  - fever, vomiting, epigastric pain
  - prostration, dehydration
  - scleral icterus
  - renal and hepatic abnormalities
  - hemorrhagic tendency
  - GI bleeding - black vomitus
Phases of Clinical Yellow Fever

- **Phase 1** - nonspecific febrile illness
  - viremic patient, but diagnosis difficult

- **Period of Remission**
  - brief clinical improvement
  - 3rd-4th day after onset

- **Phase 2** - "intoxication"
  - hepatic and renal dysfunction
  - bleeding

- 50% case fatality rate for severe YF
Suggestive Physical Signs

- Fever is almost always present
- Faget's sign - relative bradycardia
  - slow heart rate in relation to fever
- Conjunctival congestion
- Flushing of face and neck
- Tongue reddened at end and margins
- Minor gingival hemorrhages
No curative therapy exists

Good supportive care vital

Prevent or correct dehydration and electrolyte imbalance

Treat other infections

Give paracetamol, not aspirin (aspirin may aggravate bleeding)
YF Case Management - 2

- Give anti-emetics and anti-convulsants, if indicated

- Use bed nets for all suspected YF patients

- Do not transfuse routinely
  - use the haematocrit in well hydrated patients as a guide
  - will not help seriously ill patients in shock, or those with severe liver damage
Record Patient Information

- Diagnosis
- Date of consultation and of onset of symptoms
- Age, sex, address
- Specimens obtained
- Treatment
- Outcome
Prevent Spread of Yellow Fever in Health Facilities

- Use bed nets with all suspected YF patients
- Protect all water containers from mosquitoes
- Eliminate all mosquito breeding places nearby
- Eliminate adult mosquitoes
- Vaccinate all staff