

The Power to Save Lives

Delivering fast and accurate lab results really can be the difference between life and death.

THE CLIENT

Miami Valley Hospital (MVH) is an 848-bed, full-service hospital in Dayton, Ohio. Named one of “America’s Best Hospitals” in 2007 by U.S. News & World Report, MVH serves the region with more than 1,100 physicians working in 50 primary and specialty medical practice areas. Dr. Steven Burdette is an Associate Professor of Medicine at nearby Wright State University and has been Infectious Disease Advisor to Miami Valley Hospital since 2005.

THE SITUATION

As a well-respected expert on infectious diseases, Dr. Burdette was contacted by an area hospital – not affiliated with MVH or Premier Health Partners – to consult on a case of cerebral malaria. The patient, a preacher who regularly visits Africa for missionary work, was somehow bitten by a mosquito while he slept inside a mosquito net. The patient had taken his anti-malarial drugs as directed while visiting Africa, however, he failed to continue his course of medication upon his return to the United States. By the time Dr. Burdette saw him, the patient was in serious trouble. It was 36-48 hours after the hospital had ordered a malaria test from its own lab, and the patient had a 104-degree fever and was completely obtunded and uncommunicative.

Dr. Burdette had the patient transferred from the initial hospital to MVH for immediate intervention. There, CompuNet Clinical Laboratories would support the patient’s treatment with timely, reliable lab results.

THE COMPUNET SOLUTION

Once at MVH, Dr. Burdette ordered the first of what would be five malarial smears performed by CompuNet over the next five days. Malarial smears are lab tests done to determine what percentage of a patient’s blood is carrying the parasite associated with malaria. CompuNet diligently read the results of each test—sometimes finding just a single parasite in parts—and delivered results within two hours to Dr. Burdette.

RESULTS

After seven days of treatment and successful therapy at Miami Valley Hospital, the patient was released to continue his recovery from a life-threatening illness. Dr. Burdette says that CompuNet’s attention to detail and quick response times were crucial to saving the patient’s life, and limiting the number of exchange blood transfusions required during treatment to just one. “CompuNet was instrumental in saving this patient’s life. I’ve always had great experiences with their lab, but here, they really came through when it was needed most. Communication was excellent—they called results directly in to my cellphone as they were ready, and enabled me to make informed and timely decisions throughout the patient’s treatment.”

Dr. Burdette now uses slides from this extraordinary case in presentations he gives all over the country. His patient is healthy and happy and even plans to return to Africa to continue his missionary work.



Operating an on-site lab at Miami Valley Hospital, CompuNet Clinical Laboratories is a trusted part of its patient care team.



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