

## Dr de Chazournes's abstract

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- **Type of document** : oral contribution
- **Key words**: research, general practise, chikungunya, Reunion Island
- **Key information**: yes, research in general practise does exist!
- **Conflicting interests**: none
- **Main topic**: field work in research on the chikungunya.

### **Introduction:**

Is there anything more exciting than looking for answers to questions one asks oneself or questions one is asked?

Is there anything more exciting than evaluate our diagnosis and therapy in the new illnesses, referred to as “emerging illnesses”?

Next to the scientific, heavily subsidised research led by scientists, generally in hospitals, there exists a research based on field work resting on the collation of facts. This latter type of research is more useful to the daily work of the GPs.

In 2006, in Reunion Island, more than two hundred GPs collaborated in the collation of facts with the aim of improving the diagnosis (clinical symptoms) and the therapy (Chloroquine) of the chikungunya.

### **Methodology:**

Every GP on the island was sent a questionnaire. They had to answer questions regarding the clinical symptoms they noticed and the therapies they used when the chikungunya, a totally new and unknown illness in Reunion Island was at its peak.

Also, about a hundred GPs volunteered to take part in a random test using chloroquine either as cure or as preventive medicine.

### **Results:**

265 GPs have come to the conclusion that the recurrence of definite clinical symptoms, when compared, is a good indication in order to diagnose the illness such as strong fever linked to articular pains. The same is true of therapeutic possibilities allowing to relieve the pain, in the absence of officially sanctioned therapies.

More interesting than the results themselves is the motivation shown by those GPs to carry on field research when they felt directly involved and when they believed this research could help them in their daily work.

### **Conclusion:**

Is there anything more exciting than looking for ways to bridge the missing links in the chain of possible cures for our patients?

The medical files kept by GPs are a wealth of information allowing for further studies of clinical descriptions. They can only be trusted, however, if they adhere strictly to the rules of so called scientific research.

Yes, research within the GPs does exist. “I” claim it high and loud.