**The Hajj: The Constantly Moving Target**

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The Hajj is considered the world’s largest annual mass gathering and held in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. Currently 3 million pilgrims are permitted for the 5-day event but it is planned for 10 million to attend by 2030. Most pilgrims arrive at least 2 weeks before the actual pilgrimage and stay about a week thereafter. Pilgrims must accomplish a set of rituals in a particular sequence, at prescribed sites within certain time parameters all within confined spaces. This leads to the journey being physically demanding, with crowded sites favouring the spread of diseases and exposing pilgrims to dangers such as stampedes. The Hajj follows the lunar calendar, making it 10 days earlier the following year, leading to it being currently in the midst of the Arabian summer with heat exposure being a constant threat. Pilgrims converge from more than 180 different countries, bringing along different pathogens to Mecca and introducing others to their home countries upon their return. Epidemics of travel related meningococcal meningitis have been associated with this pilgrimage. Many pilgrims are elderly with comorbid conditions. Consideration will be given to addressing vaccine preventable diseases such as meningococcal disease, respiratory diseases as well as non-vaccine preventable diseases such as diarrhoea. Optimising the medical conditions of at-risk pilgrims and addressing non-communicable issues will also be covered. Finally decreasing the risks associated with the massive crowds such as stampedes and heat exposure will be addressed.