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Nipah virus

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Introduction

Nipah virus is a type of viral infection which is caused by the virus called Nipah virus. Nipah virus is a zoonotic virus that causes severe disease in both humans and animals. Nipah virus is first identified in Malaysia in 1998 during an outbreak of disease. Till now there is no vaccine for humans and animals. This virus is an RNA virus that is the part of the paramyxoviridae family. In domestic animals such as pigs the nipah virus can cause a range of mild to severe diseases. In case of humans it can cause asymptomatic infection, acute respiratory infections, and fatal encephalitis. This viral infection can be transmitted from animals to humans and also be transmitted directly human to human.

Transmission

Nipah virus is a virus which is transmitted from animals to humans is mostly due to the contact with sick pigs and contaminated tissues. The infection is also occurred via respiratory droplets, contact with throat or nasal secretions from the pigs or contact with the tissues of the sick animals. In addition to the transmission of infection from animals to human, transmission can be also occurred between humans to humans in several ways such as close contact with secretion and excretion. The infection can also be occurred by who cares the disease.

Signs and symptoms

The infection can be range from mild to severe. In case of humans from asymptomatic infection to acute respiratory infection. The infected people will have symptoms like influenza or fever, headache, drowsiness, disorientation, mental confusion, respiratory illness, vomiting, muscle pain and sore throat. Other symptoms are dizziness, altered consciousness and acute encephalitis. In several cases this can

leads to coma into 24 to 48 hours of infection. From the studies it was reported that the incubation period was found to be 4 to 14 days.

Diagnosis

High chance to get cured if you diagnose the disease earlier. There are several factors that influence the laboratory results. The factors are the clinical sample quality, quantity, type, and timing of collection and the time necessary to transfer samples from patients to the laboratory for the detection of the disease. There are several diagnostic techniques such as real time polymerase chain reaction, Elisa and viral isolation by cell culture.

Treatment

Since, no vaccine is found. It is risk to treat the patients who is having the disease. The only drug which is shown effective in human is ribavirin.

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