

## Recurrence of Nipah Virus in India

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Nipah Virus (NiV) is the new emerging zoonosis which causes diseases in both humans as well as animals with a mortality rate of 70%. The mainly CNS (Central nervous system) symptoms are fever, headache, drowsiness, disorientation, mental confusion, coma and sometimes leads to death also. It was identified in Kampung Sungai Nipah, Malaysia during an outbreak of this deadly disease in 1998. Approximately 300 human cases were identified and over 100 deaths were reported. Fruit bats are the natural source, but they are not infected with this virus. Virus found in their urine and saliva. Pigs are the intermediate host of this virus [1]. People of Bangladesh in 2004 were infected after consumption of sap of date palm which was infected by fruit bats [2].

In India, the previous outbreaks were in 2001 in Siliguri, West Bengal [3]. Nearly 66 cases of human were identified, and 45 deaths were reported. In 2007, Nadia, West Bengal Nipah virus infected 5 individuals and all of them were died of this deadly virus. Recently three persons of the same family and 12 more people were died of Nipah virus in Kozhikode district in Kerala, India. Nowadays, it is spread to other parts of India like Ahmedabad (Gujarat). Nipah virus transmitted by fruit bats to pigs and then to humans when contacted with these infected pigs or bats. Bats transmit Nipah virus to humans directly when human consumed the fruits eaten by bats. Then this virus can spread to other humans via the infected human. There is no vaccination for this virus [1]. So, for prevention control people should keep fruit bats away from pigs. People should not drink unpasteurized fruit juice and also eat the fruits after washing and peeling and should not consume pigs.

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