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Zika Virus Encephalitis: A New Emerging Viral Encephalitis

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The neurological infection is an important problem in clinical neurology. Viral encephalitis is the pathological disorder of brain seen in viral infection. Several viruses can induce the pathological problem at brain. Many pathogenic viruses are confirmed as etiological agents for viral encephalitis. The good example is the West Nile virus, which is an arbovirus that can cause severe neurological disorder. Guillain-Barré syndrome is the good example of neurological complication due to Zika virus infection.

Zika virus is a new emerging pathogen that is the global public health concern. The neurological problem due to Zika virus infection is possible. Regarding encephalitis, there are some reports on this disorder in Zika virus infection. The encephalitis post-Zika is reported in the literature [1]. For example, Zika cerebritis was recently reported by Pachar et al. [2]. In that report by Pachar et al. [1], the patient firstly presented with headache and vertigo. In another report from Brazil, Vieira et al. reported the case with Zika encephalitis and reactivation of the varicella-zoster virus [3]. Vieira et al. [3] noted that the Zika virus can not only induce neurological pathology but also reactivation of other hidden problem in the patient. There is also a possibility that the encephalitis in Zika virus infection might concurrently occur with other neurological problems such as Guillain-Barré syndrome and transverse myelitis [4]. Mancera-Páez et al. noted for the possible role of cross immunoreaction from previous other arbovirus infection [4].

Since the Zika virus already exists in several country around the world and the wide clinical spectrum is documented [5]. Practitioner should aware neurological problem in Zika virus infection including to Zika encephalitis.

Conflict of Interest

None

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