

WHAT IS NIPAH VIRUS?

➤ Nipah virus (NiV) infection is a newly-emerging zoonosis (a disease which can be transmitted to humans from animals)

➤ NiV is a member of the Paramyxoviridae family, genus Henipavirus

HOW IS IT TRANSMITTED

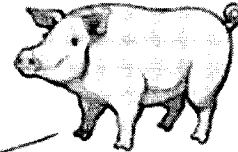
■ A newly emerging zoonosis that causes severe disease in both animals and humans



Through contact with other NiV-infected people



By consuming fruits eaten by infected bats and birds



Transmission of NiV to humans may occur after direct contact with infected bats and pigs

Natural host: Fruit bats

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

➤ NiV infection in humans has a range of clinical presentations, from asymptomatic infection to acute respiratory syndrome and fatal encephalitis (inflammation of the brain)

➤ After exposure and an incubation period of 5 to 14 days, illness presents with 3-14 days of fever and headache, followed by drowsiness, disorientation and mental confusion

➤ These signs and symptoms can progress to coma within 24 to 48 hours

TREATMENT

➤ There is no vaccine for either humans or animals

➤ The primary treatment for human cases is intensive supportive care

PREVENTION

➤ Infection can be prevented by avoiding exposure to sick pigs and bats and by not eating fruits bitten by bats

➤ Avoid contact with infected persons

ORIGIN

➤ NiV was first identified in 1999 during an outbreak among pig farmers in Malaysia and Singapore

➤ It gets its name from Sungai Nipah, a Malaysian village, where pig farmers became ill with encephalitis

➤ In subsequent outbreaks, there were no intermediate hosts. In Bangladesh in 2004, humans got infected after consuming date palm sap that had been contaminated by infected fruit bats

(Source: WHO & Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, US)