

Zika Virus Disease Response Protocol

Beuy Joob, PhD; Viroj Wiwanitkit, MD

The report by Rosa et al on a Zika virus (ZIKV) disease response protocol is very interesting.¹ Rosa et al report on “the development and implementation of a protocol for the diagnosis and management of suspected cases of Zika virus infection in a large academic medical center.”¹ In fact, having a good protocol is required and it must be based on updated knowledge. Vest noted that “understanding what is known about the virus and its clinical presentation will assist in prevention, detection, and response measures to reduce and control the spread of the virus.”² “Educating workers, women of childbearing age, and others traveling in ZIKV-infected areas about prevention strategies” is the common suggestion.³ For a medical center, the important topic is the occupational health of the medical personnel. Indeed, ZIKV infection is the big global public health issue with which present workplace health safety must be concerned. The possibility of ZIKV to be transmitted by uncommon methods must be kept in mind. This might be the future threat to medical personnel. Nevertheless, at present, prevention is the important topic for counteracting the problem. Of any method, the main prevention for ZIKV infection should be control of mosquitoes and prevention of mosquito bites. However, this is not included in the protocol of Rosa et al.¹ Mosquitoes are found worldwide in many places. Vector control is needed at working stations, but this is usually a forgotten issue in preparedness.⁴ It is important to be concerned with infection control in any workplace, including hospitals with ZIKV-infected patients, but this may be overlooked. According to a

recent survey, mosquito vector larvae are common in hospitals in endemic areas. Hospitals can be a forgotten risk place for transmission of ZIKV.⁵

About the Authors

Sanitation 1 Medical Academic Center, Bangkok, Thailand (Dr Joob); and Faculty of Medicine, University of Nis, Serbia; Hainan Medical University, China; Dr DY Patil Medical University, India; Joseph Ayobabalola University, Nigeria; Surin Rajabhat University, Thailand (Prof Wiwanitkit).

Correspondence and reprint requests to Beuy Joob, Sanitation 1 Medical Academic Center, Bangkok, Thailand (e-mail: beuyjoob@hotmail.com).

Published online: March 20, 2017.

REFERENCES

1. Rosa R, Abbo LM, Kapur G, et al, Development and Implementation of a Zika virus disease response protocol at a large academic medical center [published online July 19, 2016]. *Disaster Med Public Health Prep*. <https://doi.org/10.1017/dmp.2016.116>.
2. Vest KG. Zika virus: a basic overview of an emerging arboviral infection in the Western Hemisphere [published online March 29, 2016]. *Disaster Med Public Health Prep*. 2016;10(5):707-712. <https://doi.org/10.1017/dmp.2016.43>.
3. Phillips JA, Neyland A. Zika virus. *Workplace Health Saf*. 2016;64(8):396. doi: 10.1177/2165079916657109.
4. Wiwanitkit V. Zika virus transmission: what should we be concerned about apart from mosquito control. *J Formos Med Assoc*. 2016;115(8):684. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jfma.2016.03.008>.
5. Wiwanitkit V. Aedes mosquito larva in the hospital: a note from Thailand. *Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol*. 2016;37(12):1519. <https://doi.org/10.1017/ice.2016.212>.