

Zika Virus

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About Zika Virus:

- It is a **mosquito-borne virus** that was first identified in the Zika Forest of Uganda in 1947.
- **Transmission**
 - It is primarily **transmitted to humans** through the bite of **infected Aedes mosquitoes**, particularly *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*.
 - It can also **spread through sexual contact, blood transfusion**, and from an infected mother to her baby during pregnancy or childbirth.
- **Symptoms**
 - Many people infected with this virus do not experience any symptoms (asymptomatic).
 - When symptoms do occur, they are **often mild and include fever, rash, joint pain, muscle pain, headache, and red eyes (conjunctivitis)**.

- Symptoms typically **appear two to seven days after being bitten** by an infected mosquito and can last for several days to a week.
 - **What are the complications?**
 - This virus infection is usually mild, it can have **serious consequences** for **pregnant women and their babies**.
 - Infection during pregnancy can lead to **birth defects such as microcephaly**, as well as other neurological disorders in the baby.
 - It has also **been linked to Guillain-Barré syndrome**, a rare **autoimmune disorder** that can lead to muscle weakness and paralysis.
 - **Treatment:** There is **no specific treatment** available for Zika virus infection or disease.
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Q1) What is microcephaly?

It is a birth defect where a baby's head is smaller than expected when compared to babies of the same sex and age. Babies with microcephaly often have smaller brains that might not have developed properly.

Source: [Mumbai detects Zika virus: What are signs, symptoms and prevention measures?](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/zika-virus/>

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