

Diarrhea in Zika Virus Infection: A Problem in Gastroenterology

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Diarrhea is an important problem in gastroenterology. This clinical problem is an important clinical presentation in several diseases. In tropical medicine, several tropical infections can result in diarrhea. Of interest, the mosquito borne arbovirus infection such as dengue can also present with diarrhea. Diarrhea is a forgotten atypical clinical presentation in dengue regardless of its severity [1,2]. Focusing on the present new emerging problematic arbovirus infection, Zika virus infection, the issue on diarrhea is a forgotten clinical problem. In fact, many clinical problems of Zika virus infection is mentioned in the literature and most of the infected cases are asymptomatic. For the gastroenterological problem, it is rarely mentioned in the literature.

Nevertheless, there are some reports on diarrhea in Zika virus infection. Diarrhea might be the clinical presentation of Zika virus infection. In the first report of Zika virus infection in Spain by Bachiller-Luque, et al. [3], the patient presented with fever and diarrhea. Barrera-Cruz, et al. noted that *"The infection may be asymptomatic or presented with fever and not purulent conjunctivitis, headache, myalgia, arthralgia, asthenia, maculopapular rash, edema in lower limbs and, less frequently, retro-orbital pain, anorexia, vomiting, diarrhea or pain abdominal [4]."* Murray noted that diarrhea was one of the uncommon clinical presentations of Zika virus infection [5]. It is no doubt that Zika virus diarrhea can occur but it is easily forgotten by practitioner. Focusing on the pathogenesis, the exact pathophysiology of Zika virus diarrhea is unknown but it might be a direct gastroenterological pathology.

It is an interesting issue on the contamination of the Zika virus in the Zika virus infected patient. While the new atypical modes of transmission of Zika virus infection such as sexual contact and blood transfusion are confirmed, it is less mentioned for the possible transmission due to orofecal contact. There is no official report on the study on the Zika virus contamination in diarrheal stool of the Zika virus infected patient who present diarrhea problem.

Conflict of Interest

None

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