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Cranial Nerve Problem in Zika Virus Infection, A New Neurological Problem

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LETTER TO EDITOR

Dear Editor, Zika virus infection is an important infectious disease caused by an arbovirus. The disease is an acute illness with dengue-like presentation. However, the disease is not only transmitted by mosquito bite, it is also transmittable by other methods such as vertical transmission for mother to child and sexual contact. The disease has a wide clinical spectrum and it might present with an atypical clinical problem[1]. There are many neurological problems related to the infection and it is believed that the pathological process during the infection is the main factor induce neuropathology in Zika virus infected cases. Of several new observations, the cranial nerve problem in Zika virus infection is an interesting issue. It is observed in the cases with Zika virus related Guillain-Barré syndrome (GB) [2]. The exact pathogenesis is still unknown but it is believed to be due to immunopathology. There is also an interesting that the cranial nerve problem can be observed in congenital infection and the problem might be detected in utero [3]. It is no doubt that the neurological problem is an emerging clinical presentation of Zika virus. In fact, optic nerve, a cranial nerve, involvement is widely mentioned for the Zika virus related problem. Focusing on eye problem in Zika virus infection, the common problem observed is "atrophic changes within the optic nerve [4]". Apart from the well-known microcephaly, GBS and brain problems (infarction), the cranial nerve problem is a new emerging problem that should be kept in mind of all practitioners.

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