Family Medicine and Community Health

Female-to-male sexual transmssion of Zika virus infection

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Dear Editor,

We read the publication on 'The challenge given by Zika virus' with a great interest.[1] Rodriguez and Sebastian mentioned that 'No sexual transmission of Zika virus from infected women to their partners and from infected people without symptoms has been reported'.[1] Indeed, sexual transmission is a possible mode of Zika virus transmission.[2] Either homosexual or heterosexual contact might be the starting point of pathogenic virus transmission.[3] Regarding female-to-male sexual transmission of Zika virus, there are some reports on this problem. Davidson *et al* first reported a suspected female-to-male sexual transmission of Zika Virus from New York city in 2016.[4] This case report had several laboratory evidences showing the possibility of disease transmission.[4] After that, there are many reports on this issue.[5] As noted by Sherley and Ong, 'Unusually for a mosquito-borne virus, sexual spread has also been reported; with cases of male-to-female, female-to-male and male-to-male sexual transmission all now published in the scientific literature'.[5] According to the summative analysis by Moreira *et al* on sexual transmission of Zika virus, female-to-male transmission is detected in 3.7%.[6] Nevertheless, the common difficulty for diagnosis of a male-to-female or female-to-male sexual transmission of Zika virus is the ruling out of the chance of mosquito transmission, mosquito bite, of the two partners.[7] The diagnosis requires both clinical epidemiological molecular laboratory investigations for final confirmation.[7]

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