



The secret life of Zika virus: Book review

The book entitled “**The Secret Life of Zika Virus**” written by **Kalpish Ratna** is an excellent handbook related to Zika virus. The author has beautifully compiled the book and gave interesting information related to Zika virus. This book is a perfect guide for the students to know the basics related to Zika virus. Until recently, Zika was considered as a mild disease, but recently it caused a serious threat all around the globe. Zika caused a huge hue and cry in Brazil during 2014. In India, three persons were diagnosed with Zika in Ahmedabad, which caused panic due to misinformation related to the virus.

The author has highlighted the structure of Zika’s RNA genome, which contained about 11000 bases and many copies of the capsid protein. In this book author has stated that pregnant women with Zika Virus might give birth to a baby with a disastrous abnormality known as Microcephaly. Microcephaly, a serious disorder characterized by unusually small heads and brain damage. In Brazil, during the final months of 2015 till January 2016, 4783 newborns were diagnosed as “microcephalic”.

Infection caused by Zika virus, an arthropod-borne flavivirus transmitted by *Aedes* mosquitoes. Sexual transmission has also been confirmed. There is strong scientific consensus that Zika virus is a cause of microcephaly and other congenital abnormalities. The range of abnormalities seen and the likely causal link to the virus suggest a new congenital syndrome. The author has beautifully highlighted the various cases of indigenous cases of Zika Virus in many countries, which is the beauty of this book.

The infected persons with Zika Virus develop symptoms include fever, maculopapular rash, arthralgias, nonpurulent conjunctivitis and headache. The mainstays of the routine diagnosis of Zika virus infection are the detection of viral nucleic acid by RT-PCR and the detection of IgM antibodies by IgM-capture enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (MAC-ELISA). As with the other mosquito-borne flaviviruses, treatment for uncomplicated Zika virus infection focuses on symptoms. No Zika virus vaccine exists; thus, prevention and control measures center on avoiding mosquito bites, reducing sexual transmission, and controlling the mosquito vector.

This book highlights lineage of viruses and vectors, and the role of *Aedes* in the transmission of Zika. Five Zika Virus strains have been collected in 5 countries. The data revealed the two major lineages, which is known as African and Asian. The book is a panoramic and accessible guide to all students. The author has maintained the simplicity of writing, which has added to the grandeur of this book. To the best of our knowledge, there is no other book that includes so many examples and data related to Zika Virus of many countries. This book is a ready rechner for students.

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