

Hearing problem in Zika virus infection

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At present, the Zika virus infection is the important public health problem in several countries around the world. The infection in the pregnant is reported for the association with the congenital Zika virus syndrome and the affected infant might have microcephaly and neurological problem. In the adult population, the infection is also reported for the relationship with several problems including to neurological dysfunction. The interrelationship between Zika virus infection and hearing problem is an interesting issue in otolaryngology.

The hearing loss in congenital Zika virus syndrome is an interesting reported problem. In endemic area in South America, there are some cases of hearing in the children with congenital Zika virus syndrome.¹ At present, there are some recommendations that “auditory brainstem response (ABR) testing before 1 month of age” for any children with congenital Zika virus syndrome.² In follow-up of cases with congenital Zika virus syndrome, Satterfield-Nash et al. found that hearing problem is a comm problem.³ Nevertheless, the difference observation is reported from tropical Asia, where the disease is usually asymptomatic.⁴ Regarding adult cases, there are also some recent reports on hearing problem in Zika virus infected cases. Transient hearing loss is reported.⁵ At present, it is conclude that Zika virus infection might have some clinical associations with hearing problem in the infected cases.⁶ In the affected case with microcephaly, neurosensory hearing loss can be seen 5.8 %.⁷ As a new disease, collection of the clinical data on the effect of Zika virus infection on hearing in infected case can provide further valuable clinical information regarding the new important Zika virus infection.

Conflict of interest: None

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